

## Rays' farm brings back last century

TS JUN 13 1982

By CAROL SWEARINGEN

Rhythmic clanking of a blacksmith's hammer ... laughter of children darting between buildings playing "hide and seek" ... horses tied to a hitching post pawing the ground outside a tavern.

However, a recent hot spring afternoon trip up a winding lane to the Charles Ray farm only brings sounds of the wind playing in the trees, squawking geese and the solitary bark of a dog.

The rural West Terre Haute farmer is keeping the past alive for future generations through the reconstruction of several authentic log structures.

As a boy, Ray spent summers in a log house on the family farm. Today, Ray and his wife, Dorothy, reside on that farm.

According to Mrs. Ray, a Canadian named Orange Dean came to fight the British in the War of 1812 and was given the land in the river bottoms as payment for his services. His cabin, built in 1817, is now a "loom room" and storage area for the Rays.

"My husband's father added a two-story addition to the original cabin and when we moved out here in 1964, we added onto that addition," she said. "You can't really tell where the last add-on was made."

The Ray family has been in possession of the property since the latter 1800s.

Ray reconstructed his first log cabin, a small, two-story, in 1965. The cabin was built in 1841 by the Douglas family in Grass Creek, Fulton County, Indiana, located about 20 miles north of Logansport. Authentic farm tools along with butter churns, an apple snitzer and family dolls line the walls of the bullet-glass-windowed cabin.

Another log cabin that is arranged in the small village on the Ray property is a replica of the Eagle and Lion Tavern, Terre Haute's first inn. The cabin was three miles south of Monroe City. The original stairs lead to the upstairs bedroom containing a baby bed, two adult-size rope beds, wash stand with wooden hinges, a child's rocking chair and storage trunks.



Charles Ray keeps past alive with reconstructed log structures on his farm west of Terre Haute

Another log cabin was found three miles northeast of Martinsville, Ill., near Clark Center. The cabin was owned by Ralph Jones and has a "cat-and-clay" chimney. The clay-and-stick chimney was only temporary and was later replaced with stone or brick by the settlers, Mrs. Ray said.

"A picture of the Jones family is in the cabin and shows the couple with their young children. It must have been a hard life because the parents look older than the parents of today do with children the same age," she noted.

A fourth cabin, originally built by George Black in 1836, was found by Ray south of Dennison, Ill.

Ray took a six-foot bellows and built a stone forge and started working with iron as a hobby.

"It took both sides of a cow hide to recover the bellows," she said. "The apprentice blacksmith probably lived upstairs and had the responsibility to stoke the fire throughout the night."

A single horse buggy is stored in the dirt-

floor blacksmith shop along with authentic tools.

A "working shop," Ray makes iron latches, hinges, lamps and fireplace tools for the cabins he reconstructs.

Mrs. Ray explained that before a cabin is moved from the "found" location, each log has to be numbered and color coded.

"Most of the cabins have been covered with weatherboard and have to be stripped of the boards and roof first." She said it usually takes about two days to dismantle a cabin and load the logs on a truck.

At the reconstruction site, the logs are assembled on cement-block foundation. When the logs are in place, the gaps are "chinked" with mortar and wood chips. Approximately 1,100 red-oak shingles are needed for an average-size house. Making and putting them on the roof takes several months.

When the cabin is completed, the logs and shingles are coated with a wood preservative. Mrs. Ray said her husband splits the shingles by hand like the settlers did and

then shapes them with a shaving horse and draw knife.

Mrs. Ray said a dove-tail notch was used to join the logs together and gaps were filled with wood and mud.

Doors were cut out when the logs were in place. Window spaces usually weren't cut until glass was available.

Ray has completed a two-story, six-room log house found near Brazil. During a tour of the home, Mrs. Ray said the house was covered with weatherboard and a shed was attached. "Just by looking at it, you would never realize that under all of that 'camouflage' was a log home."

"It took four years to complete," she said.

The cabins are not open to the general public. However, special tours to school groups are occasionally scheduled.

Ray only works on the restoration in the winter months because the rest of the time the West Terre Haute farmer is busy in the fields.

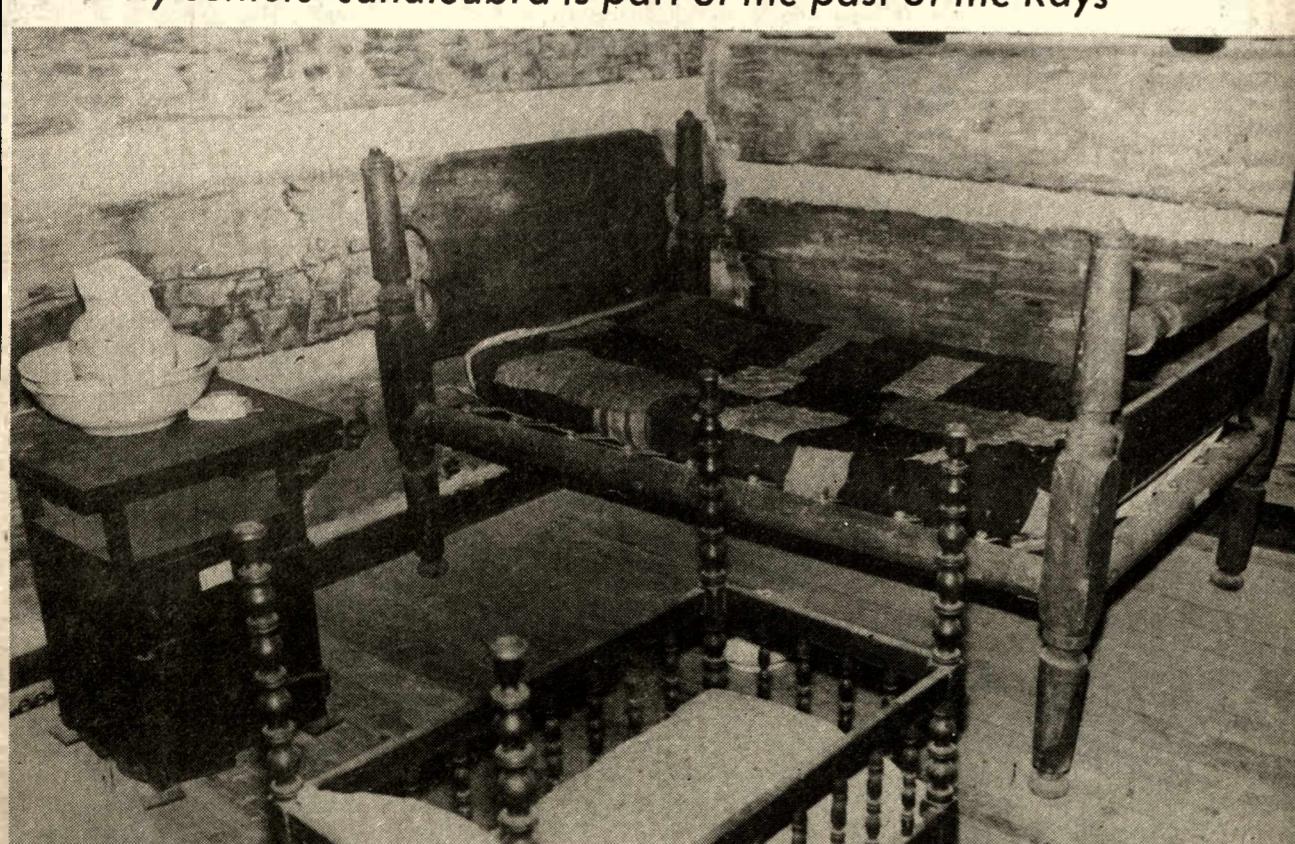
His next project will be the reconstruction of a two-bedroom, modern log cabin when the crops are in.



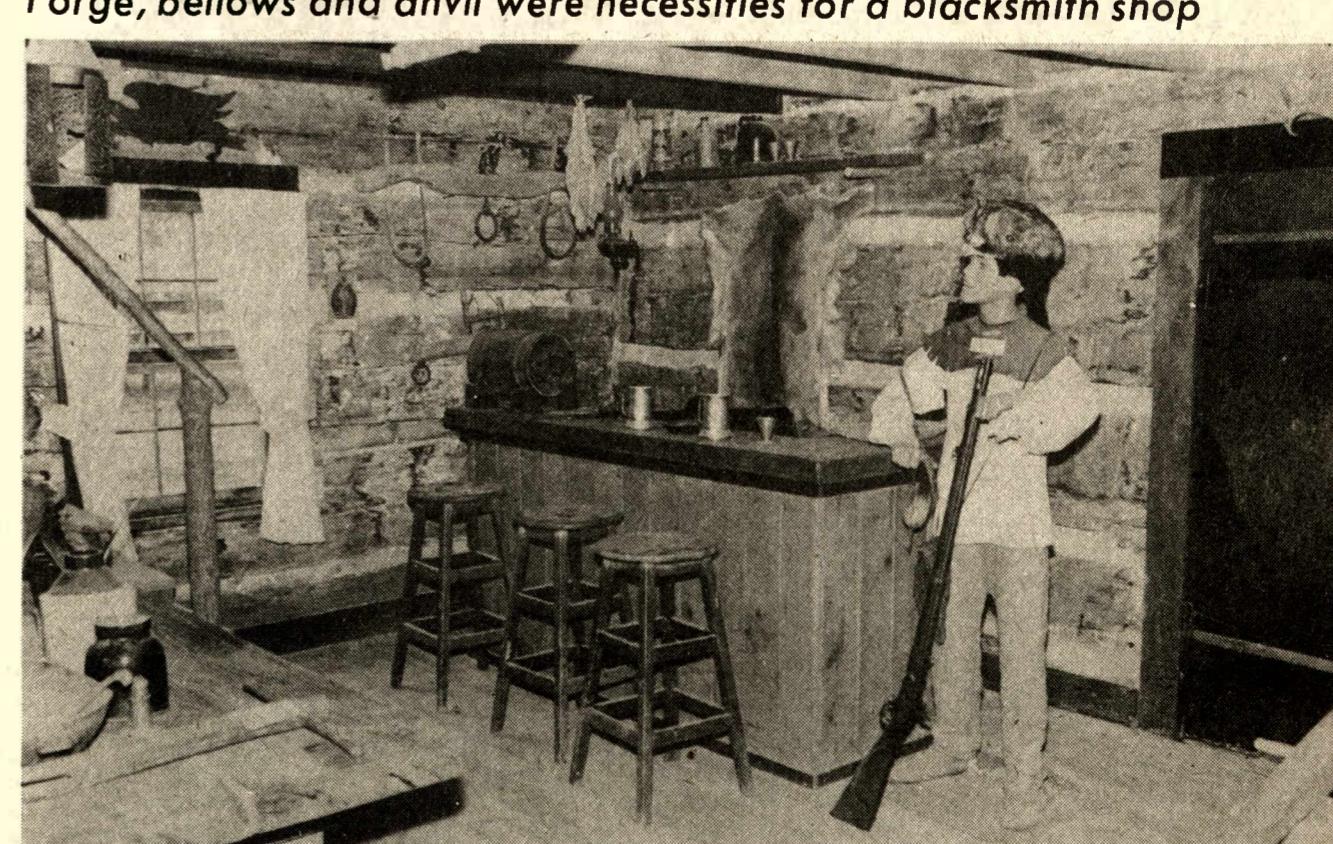
An early settlers' candleabra is part of the past of the Rays



Forge, bellows and anvil were necessities for a blacksmith shop



Weary travelers slept in rope beds before continuing their trip



A silent sentry stands guard inside the Eagle & Lion Tavern

Staff Photos/Bill Williams

VIGO COUNTY

PAS

## WOODLAWN CEMETERY

Monument to memory of eleven soldiers of Confederate army who died as prisoners of War in Terre Haute, erected by federal government in Woodlawn Cemetery on North 3rd Street. (Hist. Markers & Public Memorials, Ind. Hist. Bull., Vol. 6, 1929.)

Elijah Tillotson, "first mayor of city of Terre Haute." Elected May 10th, resigned Oct. 1, 1838; born 9-22-1791. died 3-31-1857. Buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. (Vigo Co. Genea. & Hist. Sketches, Farwell & Markle, page 251.)

Woodlawn Cemetery located between 2nd and 8th Avenues, and 1st and 3rd Sts. (Vigo Co. Atlas, 1895, page 58.)

Many of first burials in Terre Haute were in 1T at northeast corner of 6th and Ohio. "Curtis Gilbert built a house there, from window of which he could look upon grave of first wife, who died 1821." But before Curtis Gilbert bought this lot, the proprietors in laying out first additions to town designate out-lot #3 (Sycamore and Water Sts.) to be set aside for burying ground. Here for many years was only public cemetery. Space became scarce so town board Oct., 1838, appointed committee to investigate piece of land in Sec. 16, T12N, R9W; in Nov. a committee to purchase it. Lots 37, 38, 47 and 48, (12.4 acres), now comprising portion of Woodlawn Cemetery were on Jan. 7, 1839, reported purchased. Lots were graded, laid out, and offered for sale by May 4, 1839. Ordinance, July 3, 1839, forbid any more burials in old Lot #3. (When Terre Haute was Young--A. R. Markle, page 42, 66.)

Note: Best location for marker is at Lafayette Ave. (#41) and 6th Ave. This point is 5 blocks east of Cemetery. (Sims)

LOCATION: At Lafayette Avenue (#41) and 6th Avenue, Terre Haute. (To be erected by local authorities)

NO. OF SPACES IN SIGN

| WOODLAWN CEMETERY               | 17 |
|---------------------------------|----|
| FIVE BLOCKS WEST. LAID OUT 1839 | 30 |
| oldest in CITY, BURIAL PLACE OF | 30 |
| ELIJAH TILLOTSON, TOWN'S FIRST  | 30 |
| MAYOR, 1838. MEMORIAL THERE TO  | 30 |
| CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS WHO DIED   | 29 |
| WHILE PRISONERS IN TERRE HAUTE  | 30 |

DRESSER DRIVE

The Park Board, during fall of 1919, condemned 40 acres of ground for neighborhood parks, and secured control of the river front from Wabash Avenue to Craft St., a distance of one mile. A boulevard is to be created out of the latter, and it is literally on the "banks of the Wabash" it will be named the Paul Dresser Drive. (Book of Terre Haute, by T. H. C. of C., Vol. 1, No. 1, page 12.)

Paul Dresser, born Walnut St., Terre Haute, 1857. (see notes on #3 (Dresser Memorial) for biography.)

Construction of \$75,000 Chauncy Rose Memorial, a stone colonnade, commemorating the work of Terre Haute's greatest builder, has been started on Wabash River bluff by WPA employees. Semi-circular structure, 200 feet long and faced by open air amphitheater to seat 5,500, will be built at north end of Fairbanks park on Dresser Drive. A plaza, seventy feet deep, the arch supported by granite columns, preserved when Terre Haute's old post office was razed several years ago, will be center of colonnade. (Indpls News, 5-4-36, Pt. 2, Page 5, C. 2.)

Terre Haute has two outdoor swimming pools. One is for colored people. The other is in Fairbanks Memorial park, located at First and Park, belongs to city, but is leased to private individual, as it was not a paying proposition to the city. (Preliminary Rpt. County Plan. Problems in Vigo Co., J. R. Perry, page 12.)

"On Banks of the Wabash" made state song by act of Legislature. (Star 3-6-13, page 3, C. 3.)

LOCATION: At corner of Wabash Avenue (U.S. #40) and Dresser Drive, Terre Haute. (To be erected by local authorities.)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| DRESSER DRIVE  | 13 |
| NAMED FOR PAUL DRESSER, SONG WRITER, BORN IN TERRE HAUTE | 27 |
| COMPOSED INDIANA STATE SONG                              | 27 |
| "ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH"                             | 27 |
| DRIVEWAY TO FAIRBANKS PARK, SWIMMING POOL, ROSE MEMORIAL | 26 |
|  | 27 |

PAUL DRESSE SEP MEMORIAL

City officials and WPA will be busy this week developing plans to complete this year, the first half of the memorial project first conceived a decade ago by leaders of Paul Dresser Memorial Association. The memorial, a park flanking U.S. #40 for about 900 feet, will be built west of the Wabash Ave. bridge in heart of the river lands nearest to Dresser's native city. Only south half of park circle will be built in present project. (Indpls News 2-19-36, page 4, C. 3.)

"On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away" by Paul Dresser is to become State song, bill having passed both houses and ready for approval. (Star, 3-6-1913, page 3, C. 3.)

Paul Dresser, born on Walnut St., Terre Haute, 1857, a block and a half from the Wabash River. Sent to study ministry at St. Meinrad Seminary, 1872, but ran away to Indianapolis and got a job with a medicine show. Started with Thatcher, Primrose, and West, a minstrel company, 1876. Brother of novelist, Theodore Dresser. Resigned road show, was engaged at Apollo Theater in Evansville. Went to New York and devoted time to song writing, play writing, acting, and music publishing. Wrote his famous song, 1896. Died 1906 in New York. Remains removed later to Chicago, 1908. (Paul Dresser -Max Ehrmann, 1924.)

LOCATION: Terre Haute, on U. S. #40, west of Wabash Avenue bridge at the Paul Dresser Memorial.  
(To be erected by local authorities.)

| DRESSER MEMORIAL                | 16 |
|---------------------------------|----|
| ERECTED HERE TO THE MEMORY OF   | 29 |
| PAUL DRESSER 1857-1906, NATIVE  | 30 |
| OF TERRE HAUTE, COMPOSER, ACTOR | 29 |
| PLAYWRIGHT AND MUSIC PUBLISHER  | 30 |
| AUTHOR OF INDIANA'S STATE SONG  | 30 |
| "ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH"    | 28 |

WABASH-ERIE CANAL LOCKS

To reach the locks, go east on St. Rd. #46, just after leaving Riley one crosses the bed on the old canal. Turn to the left and go north on a well gravelled road about one half mile until coming to a large maple tree on the lefthand side of the road. One crosses on foot through the underbrush not more than one eighth of a mile and will come to the stone locks. The locks can be seen from the road during the winter months. (Writers Project Notes.)

The canal diggers were all Irish and about equally divided between "Corkers" and "Way Downers" from Kerry. (Hist. of Ind. - Esarey, Vol. 1, page 407.)

Congress passed bill 3-21-1827, authorizing building of Canal from head of navigation on the Wabash at mouth of Tippecanoe to foot of Maumee rapids. Later concessions made possible continuation to Evansville. First ground broken at Ft. Wayne 1832. Completed to Wabash and Peru 1837, Lafayette 1843, Terre Haute 1849, Evansville 1853. Became part of Internal Improvement Plan 1836. Canal, tolls and unsold lands placed under trustees 1846, to be operated for benefit of bondholders. (Wabash-Erie Canal-Cottman; Ind. Mag. Hist. Vol. 3.)

Canal was abandoned 1874, and sold to speculators 1877. (Hist. of Canals in Ind.-Comstock; Ind. Mag. Hist., Vol. 7, page 175.)

On May 24, 1848, the Eel River division-Terre Haute to Point Commerce- a distance of 40½ miles, was put under contract.

Believed to be ready by next fall. (Annual Report, Wabash-Erie Canal Trustees, Dec., 1848, Documentary Journal of Ind., Report Dec., 1848, part 2, page 117.)

The Eel River division was completed June 1, 1850, and filled with water; first boat arriving at Point Commerce June 7. (Ibid Report, 1850, Part 2, page 170.)

**LOCATION:** At intersection of gravel road with #46, just east of Riley, Vigo Co.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| OLD CANAL LOCKS  | 15 |
| RUINS ONE MILE NORTH. ONCE PART OF WABASH-ERIE CANAL EXTENDING BETWEEN LAKE ERIE AND THE OHIO RIVER, BUILT 1832-53, ABANDONED 1874. IMPORTANT FACTOR IN EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF INDIANA | 30 |
|  | 30 |
|  | 30 |
|  | 29 |
|  | 30 |
|  | 22 |

## CHARLES B. MODESITT

Terre Haute was laid out October 25, 1816; first sale of lots took place October 30-31, 1816. Charles B. Modesitt purchased eleven lots, among them #257. Upon this lot, located at southeast corner of Ohio and Water Streets, Modesitt built the first house in town, a round-log cabin. Dr. Modesitt was the first physician in town and he also established the first ferry in Terre Haute, in 1818, across the Wabash at the foot of Ohio Street. (When Terre Haute Was Young, A. R. Markle - page 8, 9; History of Vigo County, Bradbury - P 161, 290-91, 420; History of Vigo and Parke County, Beckwith - p 35; History of Terre Haute, Condit - p 54-55; Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County, Oakey - p 92, 149; Vigo County Atlas, 1874 - p. 81.

Marker to be located at corner of Water and Wabash Streets, which is one block north of the site.

LOCATION: Terre Haute, Vigo County, on Wabash Avenue (U.S. 40) at corner of Water Street. (To be erected by local authorities)

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| FIRST LOG CABIN                 | 15 |
| Terre Haute                     | 11 |
| SITE ONE BLOCK SOUTH, SOUTHEAST | 30 |
| CORNER. ERECTED 1816 BY DOCTOR  | 30 |
| CHARLES B. MODESITT THE TOWN'S  | 30 |
| FIRST PHYSICIAN. OPERATED FIRST | 30 |
| FERRY ON WABASH IN TERRE HAUTE  | 30 |
| AT FOOT OF OHIO STREET IN 1818  | 30 |

DURKEE'S FERRY

In 1818, the first permit to keep a ferry was issued to John Durkee. He was to maintain a large flat boat of sufficient size to hold a wagon with a team of four horses, a pirogue in which to ferry foot passengers, and sufficient men to operate both. (Greater Terre Haute and Vigo Co., Oakey, page 67-68.)

An interesting site is Tecumseh, on west side of Wabash. Former name was Durkee's Ferry, was once a main crossing on the river, and as such established the basis of widespread fame. (Ibid, page 130.)

Durkee's ferry on the Wabash was established in August, 1818. Franchise was granted to Salmon Lusk and John Durkee. (Hist. Vigo & Parke Cos., Beckwith, page 445.)

Dr. Modesitt established a ferry on the Wabash in 1818. (Ibid, page 35.)

Dr. Chas. B. Modisitt established the first regular ferry on the river. (History Vigo Co., Bradbury, page 161.)

On Nov. 11, 1818, Touss and Dubois was licensed to establish a ferry at Terre Haute. Adam Weaver granted one there also. Charles B. Modisitt with Curtis Gilbert was licensed to establish a ferry at Terre Haute, to run from lots 256, 257, at foot of Ohio Street, Feb. 1819. (Ibid, page 290-291.)

In 1845-tax on Farrington's ferry on the National Road, \$30; Modesitt's ferry, \$20; Durkee's ferry, \$5. (Ibid, page 304.)

The first ferry in Terre Haute was Modesitt's, afterward operated by Modesitt and Farrington. (Ibid, page 422.)

A ferry license in 1818 was \$5, and first of these was issued to John Durkee. (Hist. Vigo Co., Cronin, page 41.)

John Durkee was first ferryman in Vigo County. (Ibid, page 128.)

Dr. C. B. Modesitt and James Farrington established the first regular ferry across the Wabash River, in 1818. (Hist. Atlas of Vigo Co., page 13.)

LOCATION: 8 miles north of Terre Haute, on U. S. #150, at Durkee Road.

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| DURKEE FERRY SITE            | 17 |
| SITE MILE AND ONE-HALF EAST  | 27 |
| ESTABLISHED AND OPERATED BY  | 27 |
| JOHN DURKEE 1818. ONE OF THE | 27 |
| First Ferries to OPERATE ON  | 27 |
| WABASH RIVER ABOVE VINCENNES | 28 |

KUNTZ LAKE

By map of Riley township (Vigo County Atlas, 1895; p. 36) Kutz Lake is located in section 22, T11N, R SW, about one-half mile southeast of Riley or Lockport, just south of land designated as belonging to Isaac Kutz and on land designated as that of C. D. Meighen and J. W. Brunker. The route of the old Wabash-Erie Canal is shown and Kutz lake is shown to be located along the old bed.

Kutz Lake - Area 4 acres, mud bottom, average depth 6 ft., public lake. (Conservation Dept. files, State Library.)

Wabash-Erie Canal - first ground broken at Ft. Wayne February 22, 1832. Completed to Evansville 1853. Was abandoned 1874 and sold to speculators 1877. (Wabash and Erie Canal - Cottman, I. M. H., Vol. 3; Internal Improv. in Indiana - Duden, I.M. H., Vol. 5, p. 169).

From a point on State Road 59 at intersection with county road one mile south of Riley, the lake is located about one mile east, north of the road. (PS: map of Vigo County.)

Lake Kutz was formed in 1895, by the Riley Fishing Club. A litigation in court in the spring of 1897, dissolved the club's rights to the land and Lake Kutz was non-existent. In the spring of 1930, the Riley Utility Club rebuilt the dam and formed the present lake which is known as Meighen Lake. The water level is maintained mainly by land drainage. The present conditions of the lake are good, and has undergone no decline. It is probable that it will not experience any decline. The lake is one mile east of the highway and cannot be seen from the county road south of it. (Charles D. Meighen).

LOCATION: Vigo County, on State Road #159 at intersection with county road one mile south of town of Riley.

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| MEIGHEN LAKE  | 12 |
| One mile East |    |

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| WABASH-ERIE CANAL BED DAMMED  | 28 |
| IN 1895 MADE KUTZ LAKE TILL   | 27 |
| 1897.DAM REBUILT BY THE RILEY | 29 |
| UTILITY CLUB IN 1930.NOW IS   | 27 |
| MEIGHEN LAKE                  | 12 |

HISTORICAL TOUR OF TERRE HAUTE & VICINITY

by Dorothy J. Clark *Pamphlet*

REFERENCE

NOT CIRCULATE

To me, autumn in Indiana is the most beautiful season of the year. The crisp days and frosty nights soon turn the trees into a riot of color. This is a favorite time for many Hoosiers to get in the family car on weekends and drive out into the countryside.

In addition to seeing the beautiful scenery, I like to have a definite goal when taking a drive. So, may I suggest an historical tour of some of our local points of interest?

There used to be a favorite expression, "You can't get there from here," and all routing directions had to start at the Court House. So, we'll start our tour at the Vigo County Court House. To get in the proper mood, try to be there on the hour (any hour) to hear the Col. Vigo bell in the Court House tower strike. This bell was a gift from Col. Francois Vigo for whom our county was named.

Drive north on Second Street from the Court House. Here, in the low level, was one of the turning basins for the old Wabash & Erie Canal of the 1840's. Turn left at Chestnut St. to First St., then north to Sycamore St., and on your left enter the parking lot of the American Can Company. You are now on the site of the Old Indian Orchard Burying Ground where many of our very first citizens were buried, here on the banks of the Wabash River.

Go east on Sycamore St. to Third St. Turn left (north) on Third St. to Locust St., the former site of Sibleytown. On the east side was Sibley Subdivision. On the southwest corner is the little brick Sibley Schoolhouse (now plastered over with concrete). This location is verified in the 1874 Atlas of Vigo County.

Continue north on Third St. to Woodlawn Cemetery, laid out in 1839, the oldest city cemetery in Terre Haute. Veterans of all the wars - the American Revolution, the War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean Conflict - are buried here. As you go through the entrance gate at Fourth Ave., notice the young oak tree just to your right, which was recently planted by the local D.A.R. Chapter in memory of the two Revolutionary soldiers buried here, John Hamilton and Joshua Patrick.

**#2** Drive in, turn left to the Circle, and see the monument erected to the memory of the Confederate soldiers who died while being held prisoner here during the Civil War.

Leaving Woodlawn Cemetery, turn north on Third St. to Maple Ave., and east on Maple Ave. to No. 7th St. On the northwest corner of this intersection was Camp Vigo, used during the Civil War days for training, etc. In addition, an early fairgrounds was located here, just west of 7th St. and north of Maple Ave.

**#3** Go north on 7th St. to Ft. Harrison Road and turn left a short distance and enter the grounds of the Elk's Country Club, the site of old Fort Harrison built in 1811. On the west side of the present clubhouse is a large marker erected in 1912 to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the famous battle at the Fort.

**#4** While here, look south down the river and try to imagine the arrival of the flat boats of the pioneers with their families and all their belongings. Think of the famous Battle of Fort Harrison, one of the last battles of the War of 1812, when the courageous little group of white settlers and soldiers managed to hold off the Indian attack. Here, too, you may see the old bed of the Wabash & Erie Canal and the tow path used in the 1840's & 50's.

Leaving Fort Harrison, go east on the Ft. Harrison Road to No. 13th St., turn north and drive to the end of the pavement. Continue north on this gravel road and you are now traveling on the old Durkee Ferry Road, which led from the ferry at Tecumseh on the other side of the Wabash River to Markle's Mill. About a quarter of a mile from the end of the pavement, you'll find a distinct bend in the road. The farmhouse of the Curvey family is now standing on the site where the men were buried who were killed during the Battle of Fort Harrison. (For the story of the "Why" of this historic bend in the road, read my column on Drummer Davis which appeared October 6th.)

#7 Retrace your route back to the pavement and turn east(left) on county road 24W. Look for the old Denny Cemetery on the left side of the road. It is completely overgrown, but the name, "Denny," and the date, "1812," are to be found on the entrance posts.

When you reach U.S. Highway 41, at the intersection known as the "Cider Stop," drive north past Roselawn Cemetery until you reach Stop 20. Turn right(east) on 41E for one mile, left one-half mile on 3N, right 4/10 on 49E to a marked post. To reach the old camping grounds of the Indians, turn left on a field lane at this marked post. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Libbert, present owners of this property, will be only too happy to point out the interesting spots in this area, such as the camping site, the pottery hollow, Spring Creek where flint and Indian artifacts were to be found, etc.

Retrace your route back to road 3N, turn right on road 21E, and just after crossing the C.&E.I. railroad tracks, you will see the old Ostrander homestead(contemporaries of the Markle's) on the right side of the road down a private lane. This home is now

the property of Mr. Joseph Wagner. It is typical of the log cabin which, as the family grew and became more prosperous, was enlarged, weatherboarded, and converted into a comfortable farm home.

Continue on this county road to U.S. Highway 41, turn south (left) to North Terre Haute, and at the intersection stoplight turn left (east) on Park Ave. to the bridge. Here you will see the remains of the famous old Markle's Mill, built in 1816 and destroyed by fire in September, 1938.

Across the road is the old Markle homestead, built about the same time as the mill by Major Abraham Markle, and now in the process of being restored by the present owner, Mr. Tom Larison. How many picturesque travelers were welcomed with true Hoosier hospitality in the early days. The men wore their high hats over rather long hair, long full-skirted coats, with high rolling collars, tight trousers and high boots which were necessary when it came time to hand a hand to get the mired stagecoaches out of a mud-hole. The women of that time dressed in voluminous skirts, wide mantles, bonnets and thin slippers. The Markle homestead held them all and the overflow were given quarters in the old mill.

Before the Civil War, Markle's Mill was used as a link in the Underground Railroad to assist fugitive slaves escaping to Canada. During the Civil War, Confederate prisoners were confined in the cellar of the Markle house in six rooms with iron bars on the windows. All these things are still to be seen. Also notice the handmade bricks manufactured on the premises. All the lumber was cut and seasoned on the property.

Drive back west on Park Ave. to Fruitridge Ave., and turn south past the Markle Cemetery (also overgrown). Here you will see some very early tombstones. There is a legend relating that

the first burial in this cemetery was that of a Negro slave in 1805.

Between Haythorn Ave. and Ft. Harrison Road, on the left side as you drive south on Fruitridge Ave., you pass a two-story brick house, formerly the Myer home, now owned by Mr. Byron R. Smith. This home is an excellent example of an early type brick farm house built in 1876. The date is on the front of the home.

Continue on Fruitridge Ave. to its intersection with U.S. Highway 40 at Wabash Ave. Here was established a toll-gate for travel on the old National Road. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Now that I have you back to Fruitridge & Wabash Avenues, this will be a good place to stop, but I will continue the tour in my column next week. We will continue from this location and see many more interesting landmarks in this history-filled county of ours.

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TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK - OCTOBER 27, 1957

HISTORICAL TOUR OF TERRE HAUTE & VICINITY - continued.....  
by Dorothy J. Clark

We're beginning the tour where we left off last week, at the intersection of Fruitridge & Vabash Avenues. Drive south on Fruitridge Ave. and you will pass the little old Joseph Gilbert home on the west side, another style of early architecture (about 1862) in this area.

Farther on Fruitridge Ave. (or county road 28S) you come to the old Riley Road. Turn right on 20E and go west to the Mt. Pleasant Church corner. Here in this old cemetery are buried many of Vigo County's early pioneers.

Take county road 24S to left. Approximately 1½ miles south on this road, turn left on county road 18E, and follow a winding blacktop and gravel road about 2 miles to the covered bridge over Honey Creek. This is the last and only covered bridge left standing in Vigo County. Notice the original hewn stone piers, reinforced in the middle with concrete piers. It is about 18 feet wide and 80 feet long. Poplar boards cover the sides while the floor is of oak planks. I have found no date for this structure, but it has been rebuilt fairly recently. There is no date on the bridge. It is hoped that Vigo County will be able to keep this picturesque old landmark in a good state of preservation.

At the covered bridge, retrace the road back to the intersection of 24E and 24S and turn west to the left. Right after crossing the C.M.&St.P. railroad tracks, turn left on county road 63 past the Spring Hill signal tower, and note the dry canal bed running parallel with the tracks in a southeasterly

the old canal bed can be traced for several miles. At the intersection of 18E and 6S, see the remains of the canal which was filled with water on Labor Day(1957). You can also go to Riley and turn north on the county road to see the remains of the old locks of the canal. Lockport is the early name of Riley.

Retrace the route over 6S, back to 24E and 24S, and take 24S back to the Mt. Pleasant Church corner, where we head back to civilization via the old Riley Road. Turn north on 25th St. to Poplar St. and drive west(left) as far as 1339 Poplar St.

# 17  
# 13  
Here we see the Preston House, the oldest dwelling house in Terre Haute, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. E.V. Smith. This house was built over a period of three years(1824-1827) by Major George W. Dewees. Stones for the construction were laboriously hauled from near Rockville by ox-sled. Major Dewees patterned his home after the New Orleans style which he greatly fancied. Later the house was purchased by Nathaniel Preston, grandfather of Mrs. Smith, and since that time has been known as "Preston House."

Continue west on Poplar St. to 3rd St., north to Walnut St., then west, past the site of the birthplace of Paul Dresser at 115 Walnut St., where the Kroger Market now stands. Paul Dresser was born April 23rd, 1857. He was the composer of the famous song, "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Xway," which was adopted as the state song of Indiana in 1913. Some historians are of the opinion that the birthplace was the third house south of Walnut St. on the east side of So. 2nd St. (or Harding Ave.), but the majority believe 115 Walnut St. to be the correct one.

0  
# 14  
Continue on to 1st St., turn south to Farrington St., and turn right(west) into the entrance of Dresser Drive. Along the winding drive you will see on your right the Chauncey Rose Memorial

Plaza, the old facade of the former Post Office, "planned and dedicated by the Banks of the Wabash Association to perpetuate the memories of those, who by their generous material gifts, have enlarged the spiritual, educational, physical and recreative life of this community." This is the inscription on one of the corner markers. The climb up here is worth the effort, for you can enjoy a fine view of the Wabash River.

A little farther north see the artesian well, and note the inscription on the tablet: "Mineral water fountain constructed in 1937," with the names of the people responsible for its being built.

15 At Ohio St. turn east 2 blocks to Memorial Hall, the oldest business building still standing in Terre Haute, formerly the old State Bank, erected in 1834 (regardless of the date painted on the front!) Here are collected many relics and much of interest of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War.

Cross the street to the Vigo County Court House and read the cornerstone inscription dated 1864. Study the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the northeast corner of the Court House square. The inscriptions on the four sides tell the story. The four statues represent cavalry, infantry, navy, and artillerymen in the uniforms of the Civil War. Close by is the bust and monument dedicated to Col. Richard W. Thompson.

Now that I have you safely back again to your original point of embarkation, you can end the tour here, but if you're not too tired, you can go on to see still a few more interesting historical sights. Drive east on Wabash Ave. to 5th St. Here on the northeast corner, you can see the Claude L. Herbert Monument and

column of Sept. 29th.) Continue east to 7th St., long known as the "Crossroads of the World," where U.S. Highways 40 and 41 intersect. Located on the northeast corner of this famous intersection is the Terre Haute House, formerly the old Prairie House, built in 1838 by Chauncey Rose. Enter the lobby of the hotel and see the pictures of Terre Haute's two famous horses, Axtell on the west wall south of the 7th St. entrance, and Nancy Banks on the same wall north of the entrance. Axtell's record for 3 year-olds, 2:12 in 1889, stood for 17 years.

Walk a few steps south on 7th St. on the west side and enter the Swope Art Gallery, the most beautiful spot in Terre Haute. This is truly the showplace of our city, and there is always something of interest to see here, both of an historical and modern interest. Sheldon Swope, a large property owner and a leading citizen here at the turn of the century, built the Swope Block in 1902 at 7th & Ohio Sts. The Art Gallery opened March 22nd, 1942.

Here we will end this tour, though there are an infinite number of interesting spots that were not included. It has often been said that there is a definite need for just such a planned tour as you have just completed. There is also a great need for a booklet listing the spots of interest here, their history and pictures to illustrate their nature. This booklet is needed not only for tourists and strangers to our city, but for our children and newer residents. Since we have no museum in Terre Haute (a disgrace for a city of this size!) our school teachers are sometimes at a loss how to present our local history to their young students in an interesting manner.

Mrs. Norman Libbert, 4th grade teacher at Deming School, gave this problem much thought and wrote an excellent term paper on just this subject. I am indebted to her for much valuable thought and suggestion and for the following quotation by General Lew Wallace - "We do not all know of the history of Indiana. In our public schools and colleges we are crammed with Greece and Rome and Europe, their wars and literature, but of Indiana, nothing clear and determinate, I came near saying, of Indiana, nothing at all."

If any of my readers have any suggestions concerning other spots of interest which could be included on a tour of this sort, please write to me at: 2120 North Tenth St., Terre Haute, Ind.

\*\*\*\*\*

*First Markers*

VIGO COUNTY

PAS

COLONEL THOMPSON

Thompson, Richard Wigginton, born in Virginia 1809, store clerk in Louisville 1831, to Lawrence Co., Ind., 1831, taught school, studied law, admitted to bar 1834, began practice in Bedford. Rep. to State Legislature 1836-38, to Congress 1841-43; moved to Terre Haute 1843, city attorney 1846-47, Rep. to Congress 1847-49; declined office of Austrian minister, recorder of General Land office, and seat on bench in Court of Claims. Commander of Camp Thompson, and provost marshall 1861-65. Collector of internal revenue one term. Delegate to Rep. Nat. Conv. 1868, 1876. Judge, 5th Dist., Indiana Circuit Court 1867-69; Secretary of Navy 1877-80; Chairman of American Committee of the Panama Canal Co., 1881, director Panama R. R. Co. 1881-88. Died in Terre Haute 1900, buried in High Lawn Cemetery.  
(Biog. Dict. of Am. Congress, page 1612.)

Monument erected to Col. R. W. Thompson, 1809-1900, on courthouse lawn, by members of Terre Haute Club, in 1906.

LOCATION: Northwest corner courthouse lawn, Terre Haute. (To be erected by local authorities)

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| RICHARD W. THOMPSON<br>1809-1900                                | 19<br>9  |
| LAWYER, JUDGE, LEGISLATOR AND<br>CONGRESSMAN, COMMANDER OF CAMP | 29<br>30 |
| THOMPSON AND PROVOST MARSHALL                                   | 29       |
| 1861-65, SECRETARY OF THE NAVY                                  | 30       |
| FROM 1877 to 1880. MONUMENT ON<br>COURTHOUSE LAWN               | 30<br>15 |

DANIEL VOORHEES

Voorhees, Daniel Wolsey-Rep. and Senator from Indiana, born in Ohio, 1827, attended common school in Veedersburg, Ind., graduated from DePauw, 1849, admitted to bar, 1851, commenced practice in Covington, Ind., then moving to Terre Haute. U. S. Dist. Attorney for Indiana 1858-61. Rep. to Congress, 1861-65. 1869-73, served in Senate 1877-1897. Died in Washington, D. C., 1897, interred in Highland Lawn Cemetery, Terre Haute. (Biog. Dict. of Am. Congress, page 1652.)

Voorhees residence listed as 212 N. 8th Street.  
(Greene and Herb's Terre Haute Directory, 1876.)  
Voorhees called "the tall sycamore of the Wabash."  
(Rep. Men of Ind., D. 8, page 5; Greater Terre Haute & Vigo Co., Oakey, page 137.)

LOCATION: At 212 N. 8th Street, Terre Haute.  
(To be erected by local authorities)

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| DANIEL W. VOORHEES              | 18 |
| 1827-1897                       | 9  |
| OLD HOME OF DANIEL W. VOORHEES  | 30 |
| LAWYER, UNITED STATES DISTRICT  | 30 |
| ATTORNEY 1858-61, CONGRESSMAN   | 29 |
| 1861-65, 1869-73, UNITED STATES | 30 |
| SENATOR 1877-97. KNOWN AS "THE  | 30 |
| TALL SYCAMORE OF THE WABASH"    | 28 |

JOHN USHER

Usher, John Palmer (1816-1889), lawyer, secretary of the Interior in Lincoln's Cabinet; born in Brookfield, N.Y., admitted to bar 1839, moved to Terre Haute, 1840. Rode the circuit, sometimes engaged with Lincoln in argument of cases. Served in Indiana Legislature 1850-51. Unsuccessful candidate for Congress, 1856. Attorney-General of Indiana, 1861, Assistant Secretary of Interior, 1861-63, Secretary of Interior, 1863-65. Resigned office and moved to Lawrence, Kansas, where he accepted position of Chief counsel for Union Pacific R. R., which he retained until death.  
(Dict. Am. Biog., Vol. 19, page 134.)

Usher, J. P. address between 6th and 7th, on Ohio Street. (Terre Haute City Directory, 1858.)

LOCATION: On U. S. #40 at Wabash Ave. and Center St., Terre Haute.  
(To be erected by local authorities)

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| JOHN P. USHER                 | 13 |
| 1816-1889                     | 9  |
| SITE OF THE FAMILY RESIDENCE  | 28 |
| OF JOHN PALMER USHER, LAWYER  | 28 |
| LEGISLATOR, ATTORNEY GENERAL  | 28 |
| OF INDIANA 1861, Secretary OF | 29 |
| INTERIOR IN LINCOLN'S CABINET | 29 |
| 1863-1865                     |    |

FIRST TAVERN

In 1817, Henry Redford erected the first tavern in Terre Haute, on southeast corner of First and Main Streets, which afterward became the far-famed "Eagle and Lion". Front porch extended length of building. Originally built of logs, a frame addition later added, and the whole covered with weather-boarding. Completed in time for Fourth of July celebration, 1817. Stopping place of Henry Clay, 1831. House afterwards kept by Robert Harrison, and still later by Capt. James Wasson. (Hist of Terre Haute, B. Condit, page 72-74.)

Greatest event in Terre Haute's early history was visit of Henry Clay. Senator Clay made a trip by way of Vincennes through Illinois to a farm which he owned, some 20 miles west of Terre Haute. A deputation of citizens was sent to invite him to visit, and he responded. He was taken to the "Eagle and Lion" for reception. Copy of speech of welcoming committee dated Oct. 28, 1831. (Greater Terre Haute and Vigo Co., C. C. Oakey, page 125-126.)

NOTE: Present Wabash Ave., Terre Haute, was formerly Main Street. (Comparison of town plats, 1876, 1907, (PAS))

LOCATION: At southeast corner of Wabash Ave. (U.S. #40) and First Street, Terre Haute.  
(To be erected by local authorities)

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| FIRST TAVERN                 | 12 |
| SITE OF THE "EAGLE AND LION" | 28 |
| FIRST TAVERN IN TERRE HAUTE  | 27 |
| BUILT 1817 BY HENRY REDFORD. | 27 |
| SCENE OF RECEPTION GIVEN FOR | 28 |
| HENRY CLAY DURING HIS VISIT  | 27 |
| TO TERRE HAUTE IN 1831       | 22 |

## MASONIC ORDER

Terre Haute Lodge #19, Free and Accepted Masons, became a fixed and permanent institution on July 12, 1819, receiving authority by virtue of a warrant of dispensation issued by the then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Indiana, Alexander A. Meek (page 12).

The dispensation was issued sometime between March 10 and July 12, 1819, at which latter date a meeting was held and officers were elected. The charter was received Oct. 23, 1821. From this last date on, the minutes are kept with considerable regularity quite complete and well preserved and sufficient to prove a continuous existence. At that time the order was known by title, Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons. The words "Ancient York" were dropped many years later upon union of Scottish and York rites of ancient Craft Masonry in America. The writer was told by Curtis Gilbert, first secretary of the lodge, that "conferences were held around the firs in my office, in the evenings, to make arrangements for starting the lodge." It was the practice in early days for lodges to hold meetings in public houses. The house of Curtis Gilbert, the Eagle and Lion Hotel, Francis Cunningham's tavern, and the Light Horse tavern all housed #19 in its infancy. The Gilbert house which stood on northeast corner of Water and Ohio was the first meeting place. It was the first frame house built in Terre Haute, started by Gilbert and his partner, Andrew Brooks, in 1816 before the sale of the lots in the town. When Vigo County was organized 1818 and Gilbert elected first clerk and Brooks treasurer the latter sold his interest in the house to the former, and it remained in the family until 1880, when the lots were sold to the county for the purpose now used. The old house was then moved to S. 9th St., where it stood for some years as a tenement and was finally torn down to make room for modern improvements. (Ninety Years of Masonry, Terre Haute Lodge #19, Edward Gilbert, 1911.)

Gilbert's house - first frame house built in Terre Haute, 1816, first clerk's office of Vigo County 1818, first meeting place of Masons in Terre Haute, 1819. (Ibid p. 173)

## FIRST POST OFFICE

Mr. Curtis Gilbert arrived at Ft. Harrison in December, 1815. On December 4th, 1817, he was commissioned as postmaster at the fort, and continued as such till October 26th, 1818, when the office was moved to the village of Terre Haute, (History of Terre Haute 1816-1840, Blackford condit, 1900, page 48) Another early pioneer was Curtis Gilbert. Soon as the question of the county seat was settled in 1819 he arranged for the erection of a two-story frame house on the northeast corner of Ohio and Water Street, suitable for public purposes. The upper part of the building was occupied by the County Court, and the lower by the post-office (Ibid, page 57). Mr. Gilbert as postmaster rendered important service to the department at Washington by helping to locate new

offices in Indiana. When his office was moved from the fort to the village, in October 1818, there were less than a dozen log cabins in the town. Mr. Gilbert having been elected County Clerk, Mr. John M. Coleman received the appointment of postmaster, in his stead.

If reports can be credited, Mr. Coleman set up at once a free delivery system. To understand this it must be remembered that a man's hat in those days was very important part of his outfit. He used its tall crown as a receptacle for various articles. It is said Mr. Coleman readily converted his big hat into a leather pouch. The letters deposited in his hat with the handkerchief to hold them in he cheerfully started forth on his rounds. Meeting a friend for whom he had a letter he would doff his hat, and deliver the letter providing friend had 25¢ postage. If not letter was returned to hat and sometimes dead letter office, at Washington D.C. (Ibid, page #61)

Sources of information in respect to early post-offices are limited. There seems to be no question that the office was first established at Fort Harrison, and that Mr. Gilbert was commissioned Postmaster on Dec. 4, 1817. He continued in office till Oct. 18, 1818, when it was moved to town, and located in a frame building on the northeast corner of Ohio and Water Sts. when Mr. Coleman was appointed postmaster. All this was in 1818, and seems reliable, although there are counter statements as to where it was first located. How long the office remained in the Gilbert Building is uncertain. There is a statement that sometime previous to 1824, Mr. Wm. Linton erected a frame building near the southeast corner of Main and Third Sts., which was occupied by him as a store and postoffice. In this Mr. Linton is made to act in double capacity of storekeeper and Postmaster. But another chronicler states that Coleman held the office until 1828, when Mr. Cruft was appointed in his stead. He was succeeded by Mr. Frank Cunningham. There is a break here till Dr. George Graff was appointed, who held the office until 1839, and was succeeded by J. O. Jones. The postoffice was located in Dr. Graff's office on First St., north of Main. Mr. Jones soon moved it to a one-story brick on the north side of Ohio, an extension in rear of Mr. Henry Rose's store which was on the northwest corner of Second and Ohio Streets. Jones was re-appointed for four years in Feb. 1841. (Ibid, page 64-65.)

Curtis Gilbert (1895-1877) placed in charge of Vincennes branch of stores of Baily, Green and Bailey 1815, sent to establish store at Ft. Harrison, arriving in Dec. 1815. Partnership, Baily and Gilbert, soon formed. In summer of 1816, he established post at mouth of Vermillion. Formed partnership with Andrew Brooks and continued to transact large business with Indians until elected clerk and recorder of Vigo County, March 1818. Commissioned postmaster at Ft. Harrison 12/4/1817, and acted as such until office was abolished and moved to Terre Haute 10/26/1818. Mr. Gilbert had become a resident of the town with his election, erecting a two story frame house at Water and Ohio where jail now stands. The upper part of the building was used as court-room before

courthouse was completed and in October the postoffice was established in it. (Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County, Oakey, p. 249-52)

In a few months after establishment of post at mouth of Vermillion, Gilbert took sick and returned to the fort upon becoming well again. Postmaster at fort 2/4/1817 to 10/26/1818 when it was removed to Terre Haute and installed in Gilbert's house, first two story frame in Terre Haute. Court was held in April 1818, first at Blackman's then at Redford's Tavern, the court records taken to the fort and kept there until Gilbert's house was finished and then taken to the second story there, which was clerk's and recorder's office until courthouse was completed. (Ibid, page 47-48).

The first frame house was built by Curtis Gilbert in the fall of 1817. (Ibid, page 93.)

Curtis Gilbert was commissioned postmaster at the fort in 1817, he moved the office to Terre Haute in 1818, having already taken his part in the establishment of the county government, as clerk of the Circuit Court and recorder. In the house which he built at the northeast corner of Water and Ohio Sts. was organized lodge number 19, F. and A.M. of which he was the first secretary, Terre Haute's first and oldest fraternal organization. ("Some Early Comers," A. R. Markle-Terre Haute Tribune 5/24/31; When Terre Haute was Young. p. 17.)

The town of Terre Haute was older than the postoffice of that name, for the earliest mails were received in or sent from this vicinity were from Fort Harrison and the post-office there was not established until after founding of the town. As the storekeeper at the fort, Curtis Gilbert was made postmaster by the Federal Government, and carried on there until he moved to the newly made county seat in October 1818. The post-office at the fort was opened and Gilbert commissioned postmaster Dec. 4, 1817. In the spring of 1818 Curtis was made the clerk of Vigo Circuit Court and a few days later the recorder of the county, where upon he removed to the town. If he carried on the office at the fort it may have been through a deputy there, or he may have been gone back and forth on mail days, but it is more likely that he did the business connected with the office in the building he had erected at the northeast corner of Water and Ohio Sts, a two story frame house that stood there for more than sixty years until after sale of the lot to the county where the present jail is located. In a room or two of this old residence and store the county offices functioned until the brick courthouse was ready for occupancy. The post-office was located, Lodge #19 of the Masons was organized and many movements for improvement of the growing town were started there.

The growing importance of the town and the fading of the activities at the fort finally resulted in an order to close the office of Fort Harrison and to turn over the effects of the office to the office at Terre Haute. The removal seems to have been made Oct. 18, 1818, but the notice of discontinuance was made a week later on the 26th and the receipt for the advertised, uncalled for, and postage due letters, and other effects was signed by W. W. Hunt, ass't postmaster, Nov. 21, 1818.

Whether John M. Colman was then postmaster or whether Gilbert automatically became postmaster at Terre Haute is not clear, but soon

after we find Coleman acting as postmaster although he too had only been for a short time released from other duties, his final payment for erecting the courthouse being dated Oct. 24, 1818.

Coleman continued the office at the same location for several years, but later it was moved to west side of 1st St., north of Wabash where John F. Cruft was postmaster in 1828, followed in 1830 by Frances Cunningham and in 1838 by George Graff. On July 29, 1839 Joseph O. Jones was appointed, and he removed office to small one story one room brick building on north side of Ohio Street, west of 2nd Street. Jones was succeeded by S. G. Dodge in 1845, by James T. Moffatt in 1845, but he resumed office in 1852. During this time the office had been moved to a frame building on southeast corner of 3rd and Wabash, and later to house on Wabash, east of 4th. Office later moved to three-story double room brick building now standing on west side of 4th Street in rear of building recently vacated by Juergens hardware store. Burwell H. Cornwall took over in 1856, succeeded by J. O. Jones. 1861, E. B. Allen, 1865, then Dr. Ezra Read who moved office to building on southeast corner of alley between Ohio and Wabash, on 6th Street, where it remained nearly twenty years. (When Terre Haute was Young, P. 76; News article by A. R. Markle in Terre Haute Tribune, 2/14/32)

First frame house was that of C. Gilbert, 1818. (Hist. of Vigo Co., Bradsby, P. 422) Hist. of Vigo and Parke Counties, Beckwith-P. 41) Either Curtis Gilbert or Lucius Scott built the first frame house in 1817. (Hist. of Vigo Co., Wm. F. Cronin, P. 128)

The southwest corner of 2nd and Wabash is lot#172 (Vigo Co. Atlas, 1874), which lot was not among those offered for sale at first sale of lots, October 1816. (When Terre Haute Was Young, Markle P. 5-8) John M. Coleman's purchases included lots number 95, 101, 199, 249, and 255. (Ibid., P. 7)

Among references studied giving various locations of the post office in Terre Haute, none state that it was ever located at 2nd and Wabash. Likewise concerning the earlier lodge hall locations. The only location found to be occupied simultaneously by the post office and lodge hall was Gilbert's home. All references state that this was location of first post office and lodge hall. (PAS)

LOCATION: At corner of Wabash Avenue (U.S. #40), and Water Street, Terre Haute.

FIRST POST OFFICE  
Terre Haute

17

|   |    |
|---|----|
| SITE ONE BLOCK SOUTH, NORTHEAST<br>CORNER, AT CURTIS GILBERT'S, THE<br>FIRST FRAME HOUSE IN TOWN, 1818. | 30 |
| TERRE HATE LODGE NO. 19, FIRST  | 30 |
| VIGO COUNTY MASONIC LODGE WAS<br>ORGANIZED THERE IN 1819  | 29 |
|   | 23 |

## FIRST DEPOT

The trains left Terre Haute from the "station on the National road, a few hundred yards east of the canal ." The building now housing the freight office of the Penn. R. R. was built for the company by A. L. Chamberlain in 1853. (When Terre Haute was Young, p. 94 - The Railroads, A. R. Markle, 5/1/32) This building is middle part of present long building used as freight depot by Pen R.R. and was built as depot for old Terre Haute - Richmond R.R., the first road in Terre Haute. (Letter, 5/7/38, from T. H. C. of C.)

Terre Haute and Richmond R. R. chartered January 26, 1847. The promoters struggled against odds and worked on finance and right-of-way, so construction didn't begin until 1850. Company surrendered rights to the Indianapolis to Richmond section of its line to the Indiana Central R. R. Entire line now part of the Pennsylvania. Last spike driven February 18, 1852. First round trip made May 10, Name changed to Terre Haute and Indianapolis in 1856. Terre Haute and Indianapolis promoters built the St. Louis, Vandalia, and Terre Haute road in 1868, aided by the Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania R. R. bought majority of shares in the Terre Haute and Indianapolis in 1893, and the Vandalia was formed as a Pennsylvania subsidiary 1905 and included the Terre Haute and Indianapolis, St. Louis, Vandalia and Terre Haute; Terre Haute and Logansport, and the Indianapolis and Vincennes. Vandalia finally absorbed by the Pennsylvania. (Terre Haute and Indianapolis R.R., by Maurice Murphy-Indianapolis News 8/18/28, p. 33. - 8/25/28, p. 25)

LOCATION: Terre Haute, Vigo County north side of Wabash Avenue at Penn R. R. freight depot. (To be erected by local authorities)

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| FIRST DEPOT                   | 11 |
| ERECTED IN 1853, NOW PART OF  | 27 |
| PENNSYLVANIA FREIGHT STATION  | 28 |
| TERRE HAUTE-RICHMOND RAILROAD | 29 |
| CONSTRUCTED 1850-52 WAS FIRST | 29 |
| ROAD OUT OF TERRE HSUTE AND   | 27 |
| USED THIS DEPOT               | 15 |

OLD INDIAN ORCHARD

Locality used as burying ground by early settlers. Now but few bodies remain, most having been removed to city cemetery. The Vandalia Railroad is cut through the hill or mound and the old canal bed is on west side. The apple trees that once grew on the ground were planted it is said, by heroine of following Indian legend: In Sept., 1763, on banks of Wabash, on high knoll now almost within corporate limits of Terre Haute, was situated a Delaware Indian village. In home of Chief lived a captive white girl, Lena. According to terms of a treaty signed at this time between Indians and whites, all captives were to be returned to their homes; so upon scene arrived a Shawnee, named Nemo, to escort Lena to her former home in Pennsylvania. During journey they fell in love with each other. She was happy among her people, so, when Nemo appeared next year she joined him and they returned to her old home on the Wabash. The village had been destroyed in battle, but they built home and lived by themselves. Lena then planted the apple trees. Some-time later they were attacked by Miamis. Nemo was killed after accounting for three of the five; Lena killing herself in sorrow. They were buried on top of knoll. Their child was spared and later grew up to fight with Tecumseh. (Hist. Vigo & Parke Cos., Beckwith, 1880, page 65-75.)

First burial ground was on 6th between Ohio and Main. Curtis Gilbert afterward built his dwelling on the site. Second ground was an out-lot, north of town, on hill overlooking river, called "Old Indian Orchard." (Ibid, page 52-3.)

In making first additions to town, proprietors had designed out-lot #3 for a cemetery. Further burials prohibited by ordinance July 3, 1839. (When Terre Haute was Young, Markle, page 42-3.)

Map of Terre Haute, 1831, shows cemetery known as Old Indian orchard, on river bank just south of Vandalia Railroad. (Greater Terre Haute & Vigo Co., Oakey, page 39 & 109.)

LOCATION: On U.S. #41, at north 3rd Street and Sycamore St., Terre Haute. (To be erected by local authorities)

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| INDIAN ORCHARD                | 14 |
| THREE BLOCKS EAST TO SITE OF  | 28 |
| OLD APPLE ORCHARD, NOTED SPOT | 28 |
| OF INDIAN LEGEND; BECAME SITE | 28 |
| OF TERRE HAUTE'S FIRST PUBLIC | 29 |
| BURIAL GROUND, ABANDONED 1839 | 28 |

## TERRE HAUTE

In 1817, the pioneers had pushed on up the Wabash and founded the town of Terre Haute. The soldiers from Fort Harrison had praised the country highly. Joseph Kitchell entered the land on which Terre Haute is built, September 13, 1816. A company, backed by Vincennes speculators, laid off the town, October, 25, and the first sale of lots took place Oct. 31, 1816. (Esarey's History of Indiana, V. 1, - P. 273)

At the opening of the Eighteenth Century, the French king, Louis XIV, took a great interest in the Mississippi Valley. The country was divided between the governments at New Orleans and Quebec, the dividing line running east and west through central Indiana near Terre Haute. (Esarey's History of Ind. V. 1 - P11)

The dividing line between Louisiana and Canada was not very well ascertained. However, the boundary limit on the Wabash, was fixed at an early date, probably soon after the Mississippi Company surrendered its Charter in 1732, at the site of the city of Terre Haute. This locality was always called Terre Haute by the French. The English, by an enlarged translation, called it "the Highlands of the Wabash." (Dunn's Indiana - P. 58)

The original plat of Terre Haute was entered and bought by Joseph Kitchell, but in a few days, Sept. 19, 1816, the land was brought from him by the Terre Haute Land Company. The original plat, was amended in 1819, 1820, and 1821. The name "Terre Haute" was the obvious and logical name for the new town. The French trappers had called all the bluffs along the river by that name, which meant "high ground," and the name of the company itself was ample reason for naming its project Terre Haute.

The work of laying out the town was completed on Oct. 25, 1816, and the first sale of lots was held on the 31st. (Esarey's Hist. of Indiana and Vigo County - P. 30)

County Seat: Commissioners appointed under the act forming the county, met on March 21, 1818, and selected a county seat site in Terre Haute. There has never been a removal of the county seat. (Indiana Boundaries - V. 19 - P. 782).

Terre Haute was incorporated as a town by an act of the Legislature, approved Jan. 1832. In April, 1853, Terre Haute was incorporated as a city, under the general law of the State, enacted in 1852. (Hist. Atlas of Indiana - P. 121 & Esarey's Hist of Indiana & Vigo County - P. 129)

From John Tipton's Journal (in Ind. Mag. Hist. - P. 171-V. 2):  
"Thursday 3d - marched at 9 four of our horses missing  
three men left to hunt them marched one mile came to  
tare holt (Terre Haute - High land?) an old Indian  
village on the east side of Wabash on high land near a  
large Prairie Peach and apple trees growing the huts  
town down by the armey that camped here on the 2d two  
miles farther came up with the armey horses found  
camped on the river on beautiful high ground to build a  
garrison."

During Harrison's march, on October 3, he camped on the  
east bank of the Wabash River, about two miles above  
the Indian village of Rising Sun, or Orchard Town,  
located on the present site of Terre Haute. (Esarey's  
Hist. of Ind. - Vigo V. 3 - P. 28-9).

Indian Legend (From): In the month of September, 1763,  
on the banks of the Wabash, on a high knoll of ground,  
now almost within the corporate limits of Terre Haute,  
was situated an Indian village. (Beckwith's Hist. Vigo  
& Parke Cos. - P. 66)

....this village was inhabited by the Weah branch of the Miamis,  
and was situated near the present town of Terre Haute, which was  
named after it. (Ind. Mag. Hist. V. 2, - P. 11)

Wabash River - The Miami name of the river is Wa-ba-ci-ki, or wa-pa-ci-ki,  
"B" and "P" being convertible in Miami. (Dunn's Indiana & Indianans  
P. 96)

From the Indian name, first applied by whites to the lower Ohio,  
came the Gallicism "Ouabache," which was afterwards Anglicized to  
"Wabash." (Dunn's Indiana - P. 15)

VIGO COUNTY

#1

Hess

LOCATION : At east city limits of Terre Haute, Indiana ,  
at entrance to city on Road 40.

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| TERRE HAUTE                    | 11 |
| FRENCH NAME MEANING HIGH LAND  | 29 |
| MARKED AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY   | 28 |
| BOUNDARY BETWEEN PROVINCES OF  | 29 |
| CANADA AND LOUISIANA.TOWN WAS  | 29 |
| LAID OUT 1816.COUNTY SEAT VIGO | 29 |
| COUNTY 1818                    | 11 |

#2

VIGO COUNTY

LOCATION: At west city limits of Terre Haute , Indiana,  
at entrance to city on Road 40.

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| TERRE HAUTE                   | 11 |
| FRENCH NAME MEANING HIGH LAND | 29 |
| MARKED AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY  | 28 |
| BOUNDARY BETWEEN PROVINCES OF | 29 |
| CANADA AND LOUISIANA.TOWN WAS | 29 |
| LAID OUT 1816.SEAT OF JUSTICE | 29 |
| VIGO COUNTY 1818              | 16 |

#3

VIGO COUNTY

Hess

LOCATION: At north city limits of Terre Haute, Indiana,  
at entrance to city of Road 41.

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| TERRE HAUTE                   | 11 |
| SITE OF INDIAN ORCHARD TOWN   | 27 |
| ON HARRISON'S LINE OF MARCH   | 27 |
| TO TIPPECANOE OCTOBER, 1811   | 27 |
| FORT HARRISON BUILT 2 MILES   | 27 |
| UP WABASH RIVER. TOWN PLATTED | 28 |
| 1816                          | 4  |

VIGO COUNTY #4

LOCATION: At south city limits of Terre Haute, Indiana,  
at entrance to city on Road 150.

| TERRE HAUTE                   | 11 |
|-------------------------------|----|
| SITE OF INDIAN ORCHARD TOWN   | 27 |
| ON HARRISON'S LINE OF MARCH   | 27 |
| TO TIPPECANOE OCTOBER, 1811   | 27 |
| FORT HARRISON BUILT 2 MILES   | 27 |
| UP WABASH RIVER. TOWN PLATTED | 28 |
| 1816                          | 4  |

VIGO COUNTY #5

LOCATION: Marker to be placed by local officials, Terre Haute, Indiana.

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| WABASH RIVER                     | 12 |
| MIAMI NAME WA-BA-CI-KI. FRENCH   | 29 |
| NAME OUABACHE. FAMED IN TRAVEL   | 29 |
| TRADE, WAR, AND SONG. STATE SONG | 29 |
| "ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH"     | 28 |

LOCATION: Marker to be placed by local authorities,  
Terre Haute, Indiana.

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| WABASH RIVER                   | 12 |
| MIAMI NAME WA-BA-CI-MI. FRENCH | 29 |
| OUABACHE. A HISTORIC ROUTE OF  | 29 |
| TRAVEL AND TRADE FOR INDIANS   | 28 |
| FRENCH, ENGLISH, AND AMERICAN  | 28 |
| "ON THE BANKS OF THE WABASH"   | 28 |
| STATE SONG"                    | 10 |

VIGO COUNTY

HESS

**BINKLEY STRIP MINE**

1½ miles south of Seeleyville, which is 8 miles east of Terre Haute, on U.S. 40. The highway, of which Popular Street in Terre Haute is a part, passes along the south edge of the property. This mine is considered the largest stripping plant in the U.S. The machine that takes off the overburden from the coal is one of the largest stripping shovels ever manufactured. It is 108 feet high to the top of the boom and 75 ft. high to the top of the counter-balance. The dipper- or shovel- is of 30 cubic yards capacity; a cubic yard of the material handled will average 1½ tons in weight, and at that average, the shovel removes about 45 tons of material at each hoist. Each lift contains 90,000 lbs. of material. 75 persons can stand within the shovel. The material can be dumped a distance of 125 ft. from where it was dug. The machine is of the caterpillar type of locomotion. The large shovel is about as high as 14 ordinary size buildings, weighing approximately 1400 tons. (John Harum, Mine Mgr., Seeleyville, Ind. - Writers Project notes)

**LOCATION:** U. S. 40 at gravel road south of Seeleyville, Ind. which is about 8 miles east of Terre Haute.

**BINKLEY STRIP MINE**

ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES SOUTH.  
HERE IS ONE OF LARGEST POWER  
SHOVELS IN THE WORLD, LIFTING  
90,000 POUNDS OF MATERIAL AT  
ONE OPERATION

VIGO COUNTY

HIGHLAND LAWN CEMETERY, Eugene V. Debs.

Prominent Socialist leader, was born in Terre Haute, Ind. Nov. 5, 1822. Elected National Secretary and Treasurer of Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen 1880----elected to State Legislature 1885----He was opposed to labor organization by crafts; and advocated organization by industries--chosen president of American Railway Union 1893----converted to Socialism while in jail for contempt of court following his activities in Chicago Pullman strike 1894----instrumental in formation of I.W.W. 1905---5 times nominee of Socialist Party for presidency 1900-4-8-12-20- the fifth time while in Atlanta prison for violation of Espionage Act----died Oct. 20, 1926----. (Dict. of Am. Biog. V. 5, page 183)

His ashes are interred in Highland Lawn Cemetery. (Ind. Biog. Ser., V.2, page 171)

CHAUNCEY ROSE (Dec. 24, 1794-Aug. 13, 1877)

Railroad builder, financier and philanthropist, was born at Wethersfield, Conn. and died at Terre Haute, Ind.---He was in Terre Haute in 1818----returned in 1818----built and operated a grist mill at Rosedale, Ind. 1819---removed to Terre Haute 1825----was first president of Terre Haute & Indianapolis Railroad 1847----his efforts and finances were important factors in bringing other lines to or through Terre Haute --- during lifetime gave away greater part of fortune to philanthropic causes---Ex. Ind. State Normal School, and Wabash College----largest gifts in Terre Haute were Providence Hospital, Rose Ladies Aid Society, Rose Dispensary, The Chauncey Rose School and Rose Polytechnic Institute. He was unmarried. (Dict. Am. Biog. V. 16, page 156) According to request, his remains are buried in Highlawn Lawn, (TH)

DANIEL W. VOORHEES (1827-1897) (The Tall Sycamore of the Wabash); Senator from Ind., was born in Butler Co., Ohio, graduated from Ind. Asbury (Now Depew) 1849 ---admitted to bar 1851---prosecuting attorney for Circuit Court 1853---removed to Terre Haute 1857, where he made his permanent home---appointed federal district attorney for Indiana by president Buchanan---Rep. in Congress 1861-66 and 1869-73---20 years U.S. Senator (Nov. 6, 1877-March 3, 1897)---unrivalled in middle west as stump speaker and forensic orator---one best known achievements as a lawyer was defense of John E. Cook, associate of John Brown, in Harper Ferry tragedy---was influential in building of present Library of Congress---Died in Washington D.C.----buried in Terre Haute. According to request Daniel W. Voorhees is buried in Highland Cemetery. (TFH)

LOCATION: On U. S. #40 at Highland Lawn Cemetery, Terre Haute.

HIGHLAND LAWN CEMETERY

BURIAL PLACE OF EUGENE DEBS  
1855-1926, SOCIALIST LEADER,  
DANIEL W. VOORHEES 1827-1897,  
SENATOR FROM INDIANA 1877-97,  
AND CHAUNCEY ROSE 1794-1877  
PHILANTHROPIST

VIGO COUNTY

HESS

MEMORIAL STADIUM

Will be erected at the site of the old Vigo County Fairgrounds, near Thirtieth Street and Wabash Avenue, and will face the National Road. It is planned to place the names of all Vigo County soldiers who died in the World War on a bronze tablet just inside the main entrance. In the stadium 20,000 persons can be seated. (News - 5-12-1923)

Memorial Stadium was built in memory of those who lost their lives in the World War. It seats about 16,000 persons. (Terre Haute Star 6-4-1931).

The Stadium seats 16,000 persons. (A Short Survey of Terre Haute, Indiana by Chamber of Commerce.)

The driving park and fairgrounds with 9½ acres; through a fairground and driving park, famous for the world records of Nancy Hanks, :04; Robert J., 20½; Axtell, 2:12 and others. (Souvenir of Terre Haute - Moore & Langen - P.5)

LOCATION: At Memorial Stadium, Terre Haute, Indiana; at Thirtieth Street and Wabash Avenue (National Road), east Terre Haute.

| MEMORIAL STADIUM              | 16 |
|-------------------------------|----|
| ERECTED IN HONOR OF WORLD WAR | 29 |
| VETERANS VIGO COUNTY WAS ONCE | 29 |
| COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS WHICH HAS | 29 |
| IN GRAND CIRCUIT AND HELD THE | 29 |
| RECORD FOR FOUR-CORNERED RACE | 29 |
| TRACK                         | 5  |

## TURNING BASIN-WABASH-ERIE CANAL (SITE OF)

Construction of the Wabash & Erie Canal started at Fort Wayne in 1832 and was completed to Evansville in 1853. (Ind. Mag. of Hist. V. 3 - P. 104.)

The Wabash and Erie Canal entered Terre Haute from the north, at a little distance from the Wabash River, but coming close to the river's edge at Locust Street and following it to Sycamore Street. The river now covers the bed of the old Canal. It then ran close to the west line of the old cemetery and around a piece of high ground, to enter the basin, which extended from the river bank to First Street. A narrow stream across First Street connected this basin with the upper basin, that extended nearly to Second Street. Another narrow basin extended at right angles to the north for about a block, forming a dock and harbor for canal boats.

The Canal was opened to Terre Haute in 1849. The first line boat to arrive in Terre Haute was the Iolus, believed to have arrived in June 1850. The Canal was closed in 1874, and rapidly fell into complete ruin. (Greater Terre Haute & Vigo County V. 1, p. 173.)

Just south of Wabash Avenue was a basin about 60 x 75 feet, for the boats to turn in, as the bulk of the traffic was from and to the north. On the west side of this fill-in is now a cigar store. (Notes from Writers Project.)

The Canal was completed to Terre Haute in 1849, and to Evansville in 1853. (Esarey's Hist. of Indiana - Vigo Co. - P. 69.)  
(Ind. Wabash-Erie Canal Reports, Trustees Rpts., 1844-52.)

LOCATION: TO BE PLACED by Local Authorities.

| TURNING BASIN SITE             | 18 |
|--------------------------------|----|
| OF OLD WABASH AND ERIE CANAL   | 25 |
| THE CANAL WAS COMPLETED DOWN   | 28 |
| TO TERRE HAUTE IN 1849 AND TO  | 29 |
| EVANSVILLE IN 1853, CONNECTING | 29 |
| THE WATERS OF LAKE ERIE WITH   | 28 |
| THOSE OF THE OHIO RIVER        | 23 |

## THE PRAIRIE HOUSE

(Now the Terre Haute House) was built by Chauncey Rose in 1840. It was opened by Theron Barnum of Baltimore, who conducted it about a year. It proved unprofitable and closed in 1841, to remain so for 8 years. It was eventually opened by Mr. Buntin, and begun a remarkable career as a hostelry where many famous men were entertained. Description of its location as given in 1854-----"at the entrance of the town, one side of the National Road, and separated from the town by a common. (Greater Terre Haute and Vigo Co. V. 1, page 104)

The building of the National Road and the Canal enterprise brought men of financial influence from the east, and gave the hotel a start, after standing vacant for some time (Hist. of Terre Haute, 1816-40-page 75)

After fifty years existance it passed to the control of a company who made extensive and modern requirements, and every vestage of old times was torn out as far as possible. (Terre Haute, Ind. Pub. by H. R. Page and Co.)

The Prairie House at Seventh and Main Sts., was a four story building, with a flat straight front. (Ind. Mag. Hist. V. 12, page 262)

Note: The Terre Haute House is shown by the Vigo Co. Atlas page 55, to be located at the northeast corner of Seventh St. and Wabash Ave. (National Road.) (TFH)

After he (Rose) retired from business as a merchant he erected the Prairie House, now the Terre Haute House. (Rep. Men of Ind. - page 41)

LOCATION: At Terre Haute House, Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute, Indiana.

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| HISTORIC TAVERN SITE          | 20 |
| THE PRAIRIE HOUSE BUILT HERE  | 28 |
| IN 1840 BY CHAUNCEY ROSE. WAS | 28 |
| FREQUENTED BY MANY NOTED MEN  | 28 |

FORMER HOME OF TERRE HAUTE BRANCH OF STATE BANK OF IND.  
(Memorial Hall)

In 1834, the legislature chartered the State Bank of Indiana, charter to run 25 years. During same year the Terre Haute Branch Bank was organized. It was housed in a building erected for this purpose, on the south side of Ohio St., between Second and Third Streets. Following the financial crash of 1837, the bank wound up its business by paying all depositors in full. The charter of the State Bank lapsed in 1858. The Old State Bank Bldg. was occupied as a residence for some years, then as a piano store, later transformed into a museum or curiosity shop, containing about anything bearing the mark of age. (Hist. of Early Terre Haute -- page 157 -- by B. Condit, D.D.)

The Old State Bank Bldg., on Ohio Street, opposite the court house, was built soon after the founding of the bank in 1834. It is now used as a second hand store. It stands a monument to the early banking achievement of Terre Haute, and may be looked upon as the cradle of the city's excellent financial institutions of the present. (Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County, V. 1, page 127)

A catholic Building, which still stands on the south side of the square is the old State Bank, with its massive Doric portico, erected in 1834. It is now used as a Museum. (Ind. Map of Hist. V. 12, page 247)

This brick building was built in 1834. An unusual feature of the bank was the living quarters built above the banking rooms, in addition to the cashier's home, which was built in the rear of the bank. This old bank was merged with another local bank in 1857, and later the Kussner family rented the building for a music store. The Old building is now the home of the Terre Haute G.A.R. and other allied organizations. (Star-1/24/32, by Agnes M'Gulloch Hanna)

LOCATION: On Wabash Avenue, at courthouse square.

## MEMORIAL HALL

ONE BLOCK SOUTH. FORMER HOME  
OF TERRE HAUTE BRANCH OF THE  
STATE BANK OF INDIANA, BUILT  
IN 1834

## VIGO COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Terre Haute was chosen as the county seat of Vigo County, March 21, 1818. (Ind. Boundaries, V. 19 - P. 782).

The present court house occupies the site of the old building, erected about 1818, when the seat of justice was transferred from Fort Harrison to Terre Haute. In the dome of this building is a town dock and bell for which Col. Vigo bequeathed \$500. (Terre Haute, Ind.)

On July 4, 1832, Col. Francis Vigo (1740-1836), after whom Vigo County was named, visited Terre Haute at the invitation of prominent citizens. In appreciation of the esteem shown him by the people of the county he bequeathed \$500 for a bell for the court house. The old building was ordered to be torn down about 1868. In Aug. 1854, the new building was started and the bequest of Col. Vigo was used as a nucleus in the purchase of a bell and clock for the new building. The inscription on the new bell reads: "By his will, \$500 of the cost of this bell were presented by Francis Vigo to Vigo County, Indiana, A. D. 1887." (Condit's Hist. Terre Haute - P. 68).

R. W. Thompson (1809-1900), lawyer, politician, and author was born in Culpeper County, Va. In 1843 he moved to Terre Haute. In 1877 he was appointed Secretary of the Navy by President Hayes (1877-1889). He died in Terre Haute, Ind. (Dict. Am. Biog., V. 18 - P. 468)

The Thompson Memorial Association was organized in Terre Haute Feb. 23, 1900. On Thursday, Dec. 11, 1902, the unveiling of the Memorial bust of the late Col. R. W. Thompson took place in the Circuit Court Room. (Richard W. Thompson - Memorial - P. 173)

LOCATION: At Vigo County Court House, Terre Haute, Ind.

| VIGO COUNTY COURT HOUSE        | 23 |
|--------------------------------|----|
| ERECTED 1884. BEQUEST OF \$500 | 28 |
| LEFT FOR THE BELL IN DOME BY   | 28 |
| COLONEL FRANCIS VIGO. BUST OF  | 28 |
| COLONEL RICHARD W. THOMPSON,   | 27 |
| SECRETARY OF NAVY 1877-1889    | 27 |
| CIVIL WAR MONUMENT IN SQUARE   | 28 |

## MALCOLM STEELE HOME

The Steele home is located on the east side of the Wabash River, about two miles south of Terre Haute and one mile west of U. S. 41. The original log cabin was built in 1812. In 1817, Jesse Jones came from Virginia and bought the land and cabin. He then commenced to erect the third brick house in Vigo County on this site. The bricks were made about a mile away at an old clay pit and were brought on crude sledges, drawn by oxen, to the site. Part of the house was built against a hillside, and has rooms on two levels. Between the panelling and the wall on one side of the house is a short, secret stairway, which led to rooms under the roof, where during the days before the Civil War, runaway slaves were hidden until it was time to proceed to the next station on the Underground Railway.

The brick walls are twelve inches thick. The old house had fallen into decay when purchased by Malcolm Steels. With the exception of some repairs and remodeling, it stands today, much as it was originally. This present house was built in 1817 or 1818, the third brick house built in the county. The only road from Vincennes to Terre Haute, known then as the Vincennes (Harrison Trail), came thru the property and today forms part of the driveway to the house. Reference: (Mrs. Nellie Filbeck Steele, owner and resident of the Steele home-interviewed by Eva Nelson, Terre Haute, Writers Project Notes)

LOCATION: Two miles south of Terre Haute on St. Rd. 41, one mile east of Malcolm Steele Home.

| MALCOLM STEELE HOME | 19 |
|---------------------|----|
|---------------------|----|

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| 1 MILE WEST, BUILT ABOUT 1817. | 29 |
| SECRET ROOMS WERE STATION IN   | 28 |
| UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PRIOR TO  | 29 |
| CIVIL WAR. SECTION OF DRIVEWAY | 29 |
| IS ON HARRISON TRAIL, LINE OF  | 29 |
| MARCH TO BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE  | 29 |

## COATES COLLEGE --- Strawberry Hill

Is a plant of the Presbyterian Church, under the care of the General Assembly's Board of aid for colleges, and was founded March 17, 1885, by Mrs. Jane Patterson Coates of Greencastle, Ind. It is situated on a plateau at the foot of Sixth Street, on what is known as the "Strawberry Hill". The school and ground occupy 13 acres. It was named in honor of its founder. (Terre Haute Gazette--page 17, 1894)

Coates College is a college of the highest rank for the women of the middle west. (Calendar of Coates College, page 9-1894-5)

Mrs. Coates, a devout Presbyterian, left an estate of about \$30,000 to the assembly to be applied to the establishment of a Presbyterian School. The old Gookins property was purchased for about \$10,000. It consisted of the house and land from Sixth to Third Streets and from Osborne to Hulman Streets. The school operated for 7 or 8 years, during which time children of many prominent families were enrolled. At the end of this time the institution was so deeply in debt that the directors found it impossible to continue the school, and the property was turned over to Riley McKeen, who had loaned the institution large sums, he assuming all the debts. With the tearing down of the old Mansion there is nothing to suggest the Gookins homestead. (Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County --- page 350-1-V.1)

Note: Vigo Co. Atlas (of 1895) - page 55, shows Coates College comprised the area between Sixth and Third Streets, and between Hulman and Osborn Streets, (TFH)

LOCATION: At Seventh Street and Hulman (Highway #46)  
Terre Haute.

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| COATES COLLEGE                  | 14 |
| SITE ON SOUTHWEST CORNER ONE    | 28 |
| BLOCK WEST. PROMINENT GIRL'S    | 28 |
| SCHOOL 1885-97. NAMED FOR ITS   | 28 |
| FOUNDER, JANE PATTERSON COATES, | 29 |
| SITE KNOWN AS STRAWBERRY HILL   | 29 |

VIGO COUNTY

HESS

HOME OF EUGENE V. DEBS

Home of Eugene V. Debs is located on north Eighth Street in Terre Haute. It is a two story frame house. (Ind. Mag. of Hist. V. 12, page 129)

The house in which he was born remained standing until a few years before 1926. The present home is at 451 North Eighth Street. (Ind. Biog. Ser. V. 2, page 170-1)

He was born in Terre Haute, Ind., Nov. 5, 1855. He was five times nominee of Socialist Party for the presidency. He died in Oct. 1926. (Dict. of Am. Biog. V. 5, page 183)

He has written scores of pamphlets, some having been extended to book size. Some of his best known works are: "The American Movement," "Liberty," and the "Growth of Socialism." (Ind. Mag. of Hist. V. 12, page 129)

Eugene V. Debs, prominent socialist leader, was born in Terre Haute, Ind. Nov. 5, 1855---elected National Secretary and Treasurer of Brotherhood of Locomotive Fireman-1880 -----elected to State Legislature-1885 ----he was opposed to labor organization by crafts; and advocated organization by industries -----chosen president of American Railway Union-1893 -----converted to Socialism while in jail for contempt of court following his activities in Chicago Pullman Strike-1894-----instrumental in formation of I.W.W.-1905----- (Dict. of Am. Biog. V. 5, page 183)

LOCATION: On U. S. #41 on Seventh Street, north of Chestnut Street, Terre Haute, Ind.

HOME OF EUGENE DEBS

ONE BLOCK EAST AT 451 N. EIGHTH  
STREET. NOTED SOCIALIST LEADER  
AND FIVE TIMES NOMINEE OF HIS  
PARTY FOR PRESIDENT. BURIED IN  
HIGHLAND LAWN CEMETERY

## HOOK SCHOOL

Is located at Fourth and Mulberry Streets in Terre Haute. A bronze tablet is on the site of the first public school in Terre Haute, 1816; donated by the Ft. Harrison Chapter of the D.A.R. on October 25, 1923.

From that original plat came the titles to the lands that now form the heart of Terre Haute----that ground upon which we stand, now known as the James Hook School. (Terre Haute's 107th Birthday, by A. R. Markle --- P. 9.)

The first effort to establish free public schools in Terre Haute, independent of the township of Harrison, may be dated Jan. 21, 1853, when Moses Soule, Virgil J. Burnett, James Hook, and others took legal oath to faithfully discharge the duties of school trustees. In Aug., 1853, James Hook, acting as agent for the trustees, reported that he had purchased the county Seminary for school purposes. (9th Annual Report of the Terre Haute Public Schools, Page 5.)

By an amended plat of Terre Haute, filed May 20, 1825, the lot marked "Seminary Lots" (the present site of the first ward school), was donated for that purpose. (Greater Terre Haute & Vigo County, Page 35.)

A piece of land at the southwest corner of Fourth and Mulberry Sts., of the area of two lots, is not numbered on the original plat, but is marked "Seminary Lots." (Hist. Vigo County, Page 32.)

LOCATION: At Fourth St. and Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute, Indiana.

| HOOK SCHOOL                   | 11 |
|-------------------------------|----|
| TWO BLOCKS NORTH, ON THE SITE | 28 |
| DESIGNATED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL  | 28 |
| IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN PLAT OF  | 28 |
| TERRE HAUTE, OCTOBER 25, 1816 | 28 |

## THE PRESTON HOME

On east Popmlar Street, was built by Major Deweese about 1830. It stands today, well back from Popmlar Street, an example of early architecture in Terre Haute; The exterior has been left unchanged; at front and rear it has the long verandas of the Colonial style of architecture. (Greater Terre Haute & Vigo County, V. 1 - P. 127).

Major Deweese once owned the property, afterwards the Preston homestead, on east Popmlar Street, and built the old southern style stone house which stands upon it, about 1830. (Greater Terre Haute & Vigo County, P. 95)

According to request, it is the oldest landmark in Terre Haute.

LOCATION: 7th and Popmlar Sts., Terre Haute, Indiana.

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| THE PRESTON HOME               | 16 |
| EIGHT BLOCKS EAST ERECTED 1830 | 30 |
| BY MAJOR DEWESEE. PRESERVED IN | 30 |
| ITS ORIGINAL STATE. THE OLDEST | 30 |
| LANDMARK IN TERRE HAUTE        | 23 |

VIGO COUNTY

TFH

BATTLE ROW

This is an old "ghost" town on the site of the Wabash & Erie Canal. (Writers Project Notes)

The canal diggers were all Irish and about equally divided between "Corkers" and "Way Downers" from Kerry. (Hist of Ind. - Esarey-P. 407)

LOCATION:

| BATTLE ROW                    | 10 |
|-------------------------------|----|
| SITE OF AN OLD VILLAGE OF THE | 29 |
| WABASH-ERIE CANAL THAT GAINED | 29 |
| ITS NAME FROM THE HOSTILITIES | 29 |
| BETWEEN TWO RIVAL Factions OF | 29 |
| IRISH LABORERS WHO BUILT THIS | 29 |
| SECTION OF CANAL IN 1849.     | 24 |

1834 according to Helm - Hist of  
Wabash County.

## FORT HARRISON, (SITE OF)

The army, under command of Gov. Harrison, moved from Vincennes on the 26th of September, 1811; and, on the 3rd of October, without having encountered any material difficulties on its march, encamped at the place where Fort Harrison was later built. This place of encampment was selected on the eastern bank of the Wabash River, at a point about two miles above an old Wea village that stood on a prairie, where the town of Terre Haute now stands. On this encampment ground, according to a vague Indian tradition, a desperate battle was once fought, between a party of Illinois Indians and about an equal number of a tribe of the Iroquois confederacy. Among the old French settlers on the Wabash, the place was known as "Bataille des Illinois."

The new fort on the Wabash was finished on the 28th of Oct., 1811, and named Fort Harrison by unanimous request of officers under Harrison's command. The new fort was garrisoned with a small number of men, under the command of Lieut. Col. James Miller; and the remainder of the troops moved from that post on the 29th of Oct. on their way to the Prophet's Town. (Dillons: A History of Indiana -- P. 461-2)

On September 4, 1812, a body of Indians, composed of Winnebagoes, Kickapoos, Shawanees, Potawatomi, and a few Miamis, attacked the fort. A small number of men under the command of Captain Zachary Taylor resisted the attack, which continued without intermission until six o'clock of the following morning, at which time the Indians abandoned the assault. (Dillons: A History of Indiana -- P. 489)

Fort Harrison erected in 1811, by Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison in his campaign to quiet the titles of lands in Indiana. It was attacked by a force of British and Indians on the night of September 4, 1812. Capt. Taylor was in command of the fort, and with a force of less than fifty men and two dozen settlers, including some women and children, the attack was repelled. This was the last stand made by the British in their effort to regain the territory captured by George Rogers Clark a third of a century before.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| FORT HARRISON                              | 13 |
| TWO MILES NORTH IS SITE OF OLD             | 30 |
| FORT BUILT BY GENERAL HARRISON             | 30 |
| 1811, ON HIS HISTORIC MARCH TO             | 30 |
| THE PROPHET'S TOWN DEFENDED BY             | 30 |
| CAPT. ZACHARY TAYLOR DURING AN             | 30 |
| INDIAN ATTACK SEPTEMBER 4, <del>1812</del> | 30 |

1812

VIGO COUNTY

Hess

DEMING FARM HOUSE

There is an entry in the Vincennes Land Office dated Sept. 13, 1816, granting to Lawhart & Dickson, a tract of land in Sec. 17-T11-R9, consisting of 9 and ninety-nine hundredths acres of land. On Nov. 9, 1824, Deming took a mortgage on the property and since that time the Deming family have been actively concerned in this tract of land. It is now owned and occupied during the summer by Chauncey Deming.

The house on the property is 109 years old. It is located on the Prairieton road, six miles from the Terre Haute court house. After crossing Honey Creek turn east on the first road and follow it for one-half mile. The first brick, two-story house on the north side of the road is the Deming place.

(Writers Project Notes)

LOCATION: State Road 63, at Honey Creek, six miles south of Terre Haute.

EARLY BRICK HOUSE

17

LOCATED ONE-HALF MILE EAST WAS  
BUILT OVER A CENTURY AGO IT IS  
NOW THE DEMING HOMESTEAD

30

30

24

VIGO COUNTY

Hess

HULL HOUSE

Seven miles south of Terre Haute on the east bluff of the Wabash River, stands a two-story, red brick structure known as the Hull House. There is some dispute as to the date when it was built, but it is known that it was between 1818 and 1825. The walls are 18 inches thick and are made of hand-made brick. The house originally consisted of four enormous rooms, which were later divided into smaller ones. Rev. Samuel Hull was one of the early owners of the house. He was a Methodist Circuit Rider and held meetings here about twice each week.  
(Writers Project Notes)

LOCATION: 7 miles south of Terre Haute, Indiana, on State Road 63, at road to Vigo.

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| HULL HOUSE                    | 15 |
| LOCATED ONE AND ONE-HALF MILE | 29 |
| EAST WAS BUILT OVER A CENTURY | 29 |
| AGO OF BRICKS MADE BY HAND ON | 29 |
| PLACE. SAMUEL HULL WAS EARLY  | 28 |
| METHODIST CIRCUIT RIDER       | 23 |

## MARKLE'S MILL

Five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana, on Otter Creek, was built by Major Abraham Markle and begun to grind in 1817. It is now 109 years old, and continues to bring forth its daily grist. It is now owned by Chas. D. Hansel, 2401 N. Ninth Street, Terre Haute. Major Markle, the builder of the old mill, was a native of New York State. He moved to Canada, where he became a Major in the U.S. Army during the war of 1812, and as a result, the British confiscated all his Canadian property. He sought regress of the U. S. and became a large land owner of Vigo County. He died in March, 1826. His remains lie buried obscurely marked in the Markle Cemetery within a mile of the old mill. (Historic & Educational information about Terre Haute & Vigo County --- Historical Society of Vigo County -- P. 10.)

In 1817, Major Markle built a water power mill on Otter Creek near what is now known as Forest Park. It was also used as a sawmill and a distillery. It is said to be the oldest water power mill west of the Allegheny Mountains now in operation. It was named, and still is, Markle's mill.

In 1817, Markle built a two story house near the mill, the first house built in Vigo County, and it still stands at the entrance of Forrest Park, on the opposite side of the road from its original site. Later, a substantial brick house was built on the original site of the frame house. The first burr stones used in the mill now form borders for flower beds in front of the brick house. (News -- 6/12/1916)

LOCATION: U. S. 41 at North Terre Haute, at Markle's Mill.

## MARKLE'S MILL

13

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1 MILE EAST, WHICH HAS BEEN IN<br>OPERATION SINCE 1817. THE HOUSE | 30 |
| BUILT BY ABRAHAM MARKLE NEARBY,                                   | 30 |
| SINCE MOVED ACROSS ROAD, IS THE                                   | 30 |
| OLDEST HOUSE IN VIGO COUNTY                                       | 27 |

## VIGO COUNTY

Hess

## SITE OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (LYMAN ABBOT-PASTOR)

The society of the First Congregational church in Terre Haute, though organized Dec. 30, 1834, by M. A. Jewett, first came into legal existence at a meeting held in the courthouse Jan. 14, 1837. The Society purchased a lot and in the same year built a church. The church was dedicated July 2, 1837, being located on the lot at Sixth and Cherry Sts. Lyman Abbott became pastor Apr. 1, 1860, and resigned in 1865. During his term the first mission work was done in the city. (Greater Terre Haute and Vigo Co., V. 1, P. 334)

The first church edifice was blown down on April 23, 1853. The new imposing structure, on Sixth St. was completed in 1854. (Hist. of Vigo and Parke Cos. P. 123)

Note. The 1895 Atlas of Vigo County shows the site of the First Congregational Church to be the southeast corner of Cherry and Sixth Sts. (TFH)

LOCATION: Sixth Street and Wabash Avenue, Terre Haute, Ind.

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| LYMAN ABBOTT                 | 12 |
| SERVED AS PASTOR 1860-65 OF  | 27 |
| FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  | 27 |
| ERECTED 1837. SITE ONE BLOCK | 27 |
| NORTH NOW OCCUPIED BY HOTEL  | 27 |

## PHOENIX OIL WELL

In 1889, a drill was started in an alley between Ninth and Tenth Streets in Terre Haute. The night of May 6th, the drill struck the oil-bearing stratum. At this oil strike oil operators flocked to Terre Haute, and eighteen companies made locations. Twenty or more bores were put down in 1889 and 90. One, within a short distance of the original well, the Phoenix Well, has continued to yield to the present day (1908), and has proved the most productive oil well ever sunk in the State. For 12 years or more it averaged 1,000 barrels per month. In the last few years it decreased, and, in 1906, it yielded 450 barrels per month. (Greater Terre Haute & Vigo County, H. 228 - (1908).

A point of international geological interest is the plugged Phoenix or freak oil well in the heart of Terre Haute, at 201 N. Ninth Street. For 39 years, until 1928 when it was plugged by order of the State Fire Marshal, a record for length of production in Indiana, the well produced oil from a strata that experts agreed should not contain oil. The well was called by geologists a fissure or crevice well, the oil coming to that point from a far distant pool through a crack in the underground formations. Whether this fissure was vertical or horizontal was never definitely determined. In 1928, when it was plugged, it was producing 100 barrels per month. (Writers Project Notes.)

LOCATION: 7th and Popular Streets - Terre Haute, Indiana.

PHOENIX OIL WELL

16

TWO AND ONE-HALF BLOCKS EAST  
DRILLED IN 1889 HELD RECORD  
FOR CONTINUOUS PRODUCTION IN  
INDIANA UNTIL CLOSED IN 1928

28

VIGO COUNTY

Whitacre

HARRISON TRAIL -- Fort Harrison

Harrison's Army arrived at the site of Fort Harrison on Oct. 2, 1811 (Harrison's Letters--Ind. Hist. Col. 7, page 595) March away from Fort Harrison Oct. 29, 1811, (Tipton's Journal--Ind. Mag. Hist. V. 2, page 178) During the above period of time Fort Harrison was built. (AJW) During war of 1812 Fort Harrison was defended by troops under Zachary Taylor. (Esary's Hist. Vigo County, page 29) The fort ceased to be a military post in 1832. (Esary Hist. Vigo Co. page 29) The Indian attack was Sept. 4, 1812 (Harrison's Letters--Ind. Hist. Col. V. 9, page 124)

LOCATION: U. S. 41 opposite site of old Fort Harrison.

HARRISON TRAIL

ONE MILE WEST TO THE SITE OF  
OLD FORT HARRISON 1811--1822  
BUILT BY GOVERNOR HARRISON AS  
BASE FORT TIPPECANOE CAMPAIGN  
ZACHARY TAYLOR HERE DEFEATED  
THE INDIANS SEPTEMBER 4, 1812

Whitacre

VIGO COUNTY

HARRISON TRAIL--Where it enters Vigo County.

There is nothing in the Vigo County History regarding Harrison's Trail. However on the request from Vigo County they say the army entered the county at a point 8 miles west of state road 43. Which would be according to the county atlas  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of state road 63 (AJW) The army arrived at the site of Fort Harrison 65 miles from Vincennes on the 2nd of October. (Harrison's Letters-- Ind. Hist. Col. V. 7, page 595) According to the letter of the 25th Sept. Busseron Creek was 20 miles from Vincennes and according to the 28th (Harrison's Letters-- Ind. Hist. Col. V. 7, page 589 and 592) This would give the army five days for a march of 45 miles or 9 miles a day, and since the county line where they are supposed to have entered the county is 20 miles below the site of Fort Harrison they probably entered the county on Sept. 30, 1811 (AJW) According to Merton Knowles of the writers' project, the army entered Vigo County about 8 miles west of U.S. road 41 which would be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of state road 63 (AJW)

LOCATION: U. S. 63 at Sullivan-Vigo County line.

HARRISON TRAIL

ONE AND A HALF MILES WEST TO  
PLACE TROOPS UNDER GOVERNOR  
HARRISON ENTERED VIGO COUNTY  
ON THEIR MARCH TO TIPPECANOE  
SEPTEMBER 30 1811

## VIGO COUNTY

### HARRISON TRAIL--crossing Vigo-Parke County Line.

According to the state and county maps the river crosses the Vigo-Parke County Line about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of U. S. 41 and since the army was following the river closely they would have crossed the line  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of the road. (AJW) The army marched from Fort Harrison on Oct. 29, 1811 (Tipton's Journal Ind. Mag. Hist. V. 2-page 178) However he is not very clear regarding the distance marched that day. (AJW) According to Merton Knowles who recently made a survey of the trail for the writers' project, the army camped on the night of the 29th at what has since been known as "Harrison's Hollow" about 1 mile north of Lyford of U.S. 41. This would be 4 miles north of the county line, and would show them to have crossed the line on the 29th. (AJW) However Tipton's journal would indicate that they camped on the night of the 29th 1 or 2 miles below the county line or 5 miles above Fort Harrison.

LOCATION: U.S. 41 at Vigo-Parke County line, just south of line in Vigo County.

### HARRISON TRAIL

THE ARMY OF GOVERNOR HARRISON  
LEFT FOR T HARRISON ON THE WAY  
TO TIPPECANOE AND CROSSED THE  
PRESENT COUNTY LINE ONE HALF  
MILE WEST ON OCTOBER 29, 1811

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS

In letter, 1837, Bishop Brute informed Leopoldine Society, Vienna, that "Terre Haute and region near Paris, Illinois, are assigned to Father Buteux." Pastors residence designated at Thralls Station, 4 miles west of Terre Haute, a settlement of 3 or 4 families. Buteux built small frame church designated by Brute as Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Church burned, February, 1840, but Buteux didn't immediately rebuild, due to expectation of arrival of company of Sisters of Providence from Ruille, France, to make establishment in the autumn. Mother Theodore Guerin and her companions arrived October 22, 1840. Buteux aided in building the academy and Sisters took over the Parish school, 1842. Second Parish church, of brick, completed 1844. (Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Parish Centennial, 1937, F. G. Walker, page 13-25.)

House of Mr. Thrall was bought and used for convent. Cornerstone of brick building to be academy blessed Aug. 17, 1840; structure occupied 1841. Addition made 1845, new convent begun 1852. Cornerstone of new academy laid 1860. Foundation for Conventual Church laid 1886. Convent burned 1889, new one started 1890. Addition to academy completed 1898.

(Greater Terre Haute & Vigo Co., Oakey, page 341-43.)

Anne Therese Guerin, born at Etables, France, 1798, entered congregation of Sisters of Providence at Ruille-sur-Loir 1823. Gained recognition as Superior of school at Rennes. In 1839, Bishop de la Hailandiere of diocese of Vincennes visited Ruille for purpose of securing sisters for his Indiana mission. Sister Theodore was chosen to head the American mission, to be Superior of the Mother House, and Superior General of all houses to be founded later, until prelates of Mans and Vincennes otherwise ordain. Journey began July 12, 1840, and new phase in work of Mother Theodore opened-foundation of congregation of Sisters of Providence in America and her part in development of Catholic education in the Middle West. The party arrived in October, and took over Thrall's cabin. New building completed 1841. Mother Theodore died May 14, 1856. Marvelous developments have taken place at St. Mary-of-the-Woods since her time. The six pioneer religious are represented by a community of over 1200. Beside the college at St. Mary of the Woods the sisters have charge of over 80 elementary schools and academies in the archdioceses of Baltimore, Boston, and Chicago, and in dioceses of Indianapolis, Ft. Wayne, Peoria, and Rockford, with enrollment of more than 30,000.

(Great American Eoundresses, J. B. Code, 1929, page 292-323.)

Although the congregation of the Sisters of Providence is a teaching order, it also embraces the corporal works of mercy in case of necessity. The community of Providence has grown to be one of the largest integral bodies of religious teachers in the United States, and ranks with the first in work of the higher education of Women.

(Sisters of Providence, St. Marys of the Woods, 1911.)

LOCATION: TO BE selected by Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, and erected by local authorities.

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ST. MARY<br>OF THE WOODS  | 8<br>12                          |
| THREE MILES NORTH. FOUNDED IN<br>1840 BY SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE<br>UNDER MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN<br>FROM RUIILLE, FRANCE. ORIGINAL<br>ORGANIZATION OF THE ORDER IN<br>AMERICA. MUSEUM IN FOLEY HALL | 29<br>29<br>28<br>29<br>28<br>29 |

CHAUNCEY ROSE MEMORIAL

Construction of \$75,000 memorial, a stone colon ade commemorating the work of Terre Haute's greatest builder, has been started on a Wabash River bluff by WPA. A semi-circular structure 200 feet long and faced by an open air amphitheater to seat 6,500 persons, will be built at the north end of Fairbanks Park on Dresser Drive. A plaza 70 feet deep, the arch supported by granite columns preserved when Terre Haute's old post office was razed several years ago, will be center of colonnade. The amphitheater will be created on the bluff, which will be landscaped. Busts of Rose, Fairbanks, Ball, Rea, and other community builders, will be placed in niches in the memorial wall. (Indpls News, 5/4/36, Pt. 2, page 5, C. 2.)

Made gift of \$90,000 to Ladies' Aid Society, donations to Providence Hospital, now St. Ann's Orphan Home, medical dispensary where poor are provided without money, Rose Orphans' Home. (Greater Terre Haute and Vigo Co., C. C. Oakey, page 143.)

The Rose Polytechnic Institute was founded in 1874, by Chauncey Rose. (Ibid, page 351.)

Home for Aged Women-in charge of Ladies' Aid Society. Grounds and building gift of W. R. McKeen. Society given nearly \$100,000 by Rose, and home is auxiliary of Rose fund, in charge of society. It has been supported however, entirely outside of Rose endowment by other contributions. (Hist. Vigo Co., Bradbury, 1891, page 583.)

Rose Dispensary Building, Rose Ladies' Aid Society, Rose Orphans' Home, Rose Polytechnic Institute. (Terre Haute City Directory, 1929-Polk). Directory does not associate Rose's name with Home for Aged Women. (PAS)

Rose, Chauncey, 1794-1877, railroad builder, financial, and philanthropist. Born in Conn. died in Terre Haute where he settled 1818; built and operated a grist and saw mill in Rosedale 1819-25. Moved back to Terre Haute and became active as a merchant, farmer, and contractor, and became wealthy. Largely responsible for building of Terre Haute-Richmond Railroad, of which he became president, 1847. Resigned 1853, later active in the building of other roads. Gave greater part of fortune to philanthropic causes, most of it during his lifetime. Largest gifts in Terre Haute were to the Providence Hospital, Rose Ladies Aid Society, Rose Dispensary, the Chauncey Rose School (formerly Rose Orphan Home), and the Rose Polytechnic Institute, which was incorporated 1874, as the Terre Haute School of Industrial Sciences, formally opened 1883. (Dict. Am. Biog., Vol. 16, page 156.)

LOCATION: On Dresser Drive opposite Rose Memorial, Terre Haute. (To be erected by local authorities.)

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| ROSE MEMORIAL                  | 13 |
| ERECTED IN HONOR CHAUNCEY ROSE | 30 |
| 1794-1877, FINANCIER, RAILROAD | 30 |
| BUILDER AND PHILANTHROPIST WHO | 30 |
| MEMORIALIZED HIS NAME IN ROSE  | 29 |
| POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, ORPHANS | 29 |
| HOME AND THE ROSE DISPENSARY   | 28 |

Community Affairs File

Historic Landmarks  
~~(T.H.)~~  
(W.U.)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND  
DOWNTOWN TERRE HAUTE

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

A Presentation by  
William L. Selm

to

Sheldon Swope Art Gallery Alliance  
Terre Haute, Indiana  
November 18, 1983

Vigo County Public Library

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND DOWNTOWN TERRE HAUTE

### INTRODUCTION

On June 30, 1983 portions of Terre Haute's downtown were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. A good portion of the downtown which has escaped thus far the wrecker's ball, fire, and demolition by neglect was nominated as a Multiple Resource Historic District. This included individual buildings and clusters of buildings within an area bounded by Cherry Street on the north, Poplar on the south, Harding Avenue on the west and Ninth Street on the east.

Since 1966 Vigo County has had several other properties placed on the National Register. They include the Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church at 224 Crawford Street, the Sage-Robinson-Nagel House at 1411 South Sixth Street, Memorial Hall at 219 Ohio Street, the Eugene V. Debs House at 451 North Eighth Street, the Condit House on the Indiana State University Campus, the Paul Dresser Birthplace in Fairbanks Park, the Markle House and Mill Site in North Terre Haute, the Williams-Warren-Zimmerman House at 900 South Fourth Street, Collett Park and the Deweese-Preston-Smith House at 1339 Poplar Street.

Approximately fifty of the downtown structures have been honored by their placement on the National Register. The Downtown Terre Haute Multiple Resource Area is the first historic district in the county.

The buildings in the downtown district were placed on the National Register because of their architectural merit and historical significance. The downtown used to be loaded with merit before the demolition disease reached epidemic proportions. The buildings that remain are magnificent survivors that continue to face an uncertain future.

Many of these survivors are from Terre Haute's golden age of architecture and prosperity: the late 19th century and early 20th century. This era was one of confidence, prosperity and civic pride. Terre Haute's civic leaders were dreamers and builders.

At the turn of the century the downtown was a dense commercial area stretching from the river to the railroad tracks at 10th Street and beyond. North and south of the downtown were the fashionable residential areas. Farrington's Grove to the south was the older and more fashionable with fine Victorian and Edwardian residential architecture. A secondary fashionable enclave grew up around Collett Park in the early 20th century.

The downtown was crammed with fine examples of public, religious, industrial and commercial architecture designed by Terre Haute's own skilled architects as well as regionally and nationally famous designers. Representative downtown buildings are discussed below. All of them with the exception of the Indiana Theater are on the National Register. The theater was nominated, but the owner objected to the placement. This exceptional building is eligible for the distinction and could be placed on the register whenever the owner desires, providing that the building retains its high integrity.

### VIGO COUNTY COURT HOUSE

The Vigo County court house is an imposing limestone Second Empire building located on the court house square between Ohio Street and Wabash Avenue and

Harding Avenue and Third Street. This monumental building has undergone few alterations. Three of the four monumental stone stairways have been removed, leaving only the Third Street entrance with stairs. Some of the hall windows have been filled with inappropriate glass blocks.

The most important features of the structure are the dome, the slate-clad mansard roof, the columned pavilions, and the classically-detailed stone walls. The building is in the form of a cross. Projecting from the north and south sides of the central portion are two "T" shaped wings. The wings differ from the central portion. They employ the round arch only for the entrances. The central portion uses the round arch in its second and third-floor fenestration.

The present court house of Vigo County is the third county court house and the second on the site. The first was a two-story, brick structure with a central spire. It was built between 1818 and 1823. William Durham was contracted for the brickwork and Hovey & Brocklebank were the carpenters. The building was demolished before 1868. In 1866, the court rooms and records were transferred to the temporary, second court house at the northeast corner of Third and Ohio Streets. This building was demolished in 1982.

The construction of the present court house commenced in 1881. The corner-stone was laid on August 28, 1884 with imposing ceremonies. It was formally dedicated on June 7, 1888, and the first circuit court convened in the new court house on May 10, 1888. The clock in the tower was installed on August 13, 1887. The imposing dome which continues to dominate the city skyline rises to 196 feet.

In 1957, the structure was remodeled. The north, west, and south entrance steps were removed and some of the windows were glazed with glass blocks.

The bell in the court house, which tolls every hour, is a legacy of the Wabash Valley's Revolutionary War heroes. It cost \$2,500 but \$500 was provided in the 1834 will of Colonel Francis Vigo. Vigo, the so-called "Spanish Merchant", came to America from his native Sardinia as a Spanish soldier stationed in New Orleans. Vigo became a merchant in the Mississippi Valley and traded with the Indians. He made his home in Vincennes, later coming to the aid of George Rogers Clark, who captured the old Northwest Territory from the British in 1779. Vigo lent Clark large amounts of money to pay his troops and to buy supplies. Although Vigo died a pauper, he willed \$500 of his government claims, "if they should ever be paid", for the purchase of the court house bell in the county which bore his name. Vigo's claims were paid with interest in 1875. The county also named its bell after its early heroic patron.

The Indiana limestone of the court house came from the Stinesville quarry. Architect Samuel Hannaford of Cincinnati designed the structure. He also designed the Hulman and Company building and the Union Station which has been demolished. Terre Haute Stone Works Company was the contractor. This company supplied the limestone for the Indiana State Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Indianapolis.

#### SECOND-EMPIRE STYLE COMMERCIAL BLOCK

Terre Haute's only Second Empire commercial block, this three-and-one-half-story block contains four distinct buildings; but all show the characteristic features of the mansard roof, quoins and pronounced window frames. All four buildings have sustained similar alterations.

The distinctive mansard roof remains, but it has lost many Second Empire details. The projecting cornices remain, but the wooden brackets with paneled friezes do not. The roof itself has retained its basic shape, but has lost many details. It also had ornate pedimented dormers, tall chimneys, slate roofing, and roof cresting. All four first-floor shop facades have been altered. Originally 425 and 429 Wabash Avenue each had a tripartite, round-arch arcade on the first floor, and 431 Wabash Avenue had three segmented, arched openings. Presently 431 and 429 Wabash Avenue share a tile, glass and wood panel facade while 425 Wabash has a modern plate glass facade. The upper stories of 425 and 429 Wabash Avenue are very similar. Both have a tripartite round arcade on the second floor and three segmented, arched windows on the third floor.

The three-story commercial building at 15 South Fifth Street is physically part of the adjoining Second Empire commercial block beginning at the southwest corner of Wabash and Fifth Street. This Italianate commercial building is, however, stylistically and physically different from the Second Empire block.

This impressive Second-Empire-style commercial block continues to be an important landmark on Wabash Avenue. The eastern portion is the most celebrated and documented, but the entire block probably was built at the same time in the years 1867-1868. The structure at 431 Wabash Avenue was constructed as the National State Bank of Indiana then located in the Doric Memorial Hall. The structure was built by T. B. Snapp, a local builder and contractor. In 1905, the National State Bank was reorganized into the Terre Haute National Bank. In 1927 this bank merged with the United States Trust Company to form the Terre Haute National Bank and Trust Company and moved its offices to 643 Wabash Avenue.

Hulman and Company purchased the building that year and converted it to a commercial rental property. N. George Nasser opened the Saratoga Restaurant and Bar in 1942. Later that year, Joe Malooley purchased the business and has operated it ever since. In 1979 Malooley purchased the structure from Hulman and Company.

The two portions west of the original bank portion and the section south of the bank, facing South Fifth Street have been used for varied commercial enterprises. In the early twentieth century several labor organizations met in the rooms above the businesses in this block.

#### PHOENIX CLUB - TEMPLE OF LABOR

The Temple of Labor is located on the southwest corner of Fifth and Walnut Streets. The main entrance and the main facade face South Fifth Street. The building extends westward towards the alley. The rear and most of the south side are unadorned. The decorative facade covers the north and east sides and a portion of the south side. This Renaissance Revival building possesses many characteristics of that style and has sustained only minimal alterations.

The building is a two-story, red pressed brick structure with a raised basement. Despite its use of Renaissance features, the building lacks the characteristic symmetry. The main facade is balanced with three bays, except

for the narrow wing on the south side. The wing is slightly recessed from the main facade and its southeast corner is three-sided with matched windows on each side, producing a bay window affect.

This historic building is an important building in the history of Terre Haute and has retained its integrity. Its display of Renaissance features helps to enhance the downtown neighborhood.

Organized on February 7, 1886, with Philip Schloss as the first president, the Phoenix Club sought to improve "the social, moral, and intellectual conditions of its members, the refinement of their tastes and the development of sociability and good feeling".

By 1899, the Phoenix Club was one of the leading organizations of Western Indiana.<sup>1</sup> Although it was a Jewish Men's Club, there was no official restriction on the membership. Before the erection in 1905 of the present permanent club house at the southwest corner of Fifth and Walnut Streets, the organization had difficulty securing a suitable meeting hall. It moved about every three years. The building was constructed by Benjamin M. Knisely using funds raised by a stock company composed of club members.

The club house contained a second-floor ballroom, a parlor, a dining room and kitchens. Until 1923 the Phoenix Club rented out these facilities to various groups. In June of that year, the Labor Temple Association was formed and purchased the Phoenix club house for \$36,000. The club house was named the Temple of Labor and became the headquarters of the Central Labor Union of Vigo County which had been formed in October 1890.

The Temple provided offices for almost all organized labor crafts and the Central Labor Union. When Eugene V. Debs, the internationally renowned labor leader, and five times Socialist Party presidential candidate, a native of Terre Haute, died on October 20, 1926 in Chicago, his remains were brought to the Temple of Labor in his home city.

Many prominent people in the Socialist Labor movement visited the Temple of Labor. A few of the notables included Morris Hilquitt of the New York City Socialist Party Executive Committee; Miss Tony Send, a socialist member of the German Reichstag; Victor Berger, the Socialist Party Congressman from Milwaukee; Samuel Levin, manager of the Chicago Joint Board of the Amalgamated Garment Workers' and Debs' successor as leader of the Socialist Party, Norman Thomas.

Because it was the headquarters of Vigo County's Central Labor Union, the temple was the center of activity during Terre Haute's General Strike of 1935. The General Strike grew out of the local strike of the workers at the Columbian Enameling and Stamping Company, which started March 23, 1935. The General Strike started at one o'clock on Monday morning of July 22.<sup>2</sup>

It was the third general strike in the history of the United States.<sup>3</sup> Terre Haute was placed under martial law by Governor Paul McNutt and the General Strike ended on July 23. Although the strike did not have the sanction of the Vigo County Central Labor Union or the American Federation of Labor, the Central Labor Union stood behind the strikers to fight martial law, which remained in force for the next six months.<sup>4</sup>

The Socialist Party sent Leo Vernon from Wisconsin and Hoosier socialist, Powers Hapgood, to rally the public against martial law. Both were promptly arrested. Norman Thomas, the leader of the Socialist Party, then went to Terre Haute to assist the jailed pair. On the steps of the court house, Thomas denounced the governor and martial law but was not arrested.

The old Phoenix Club House remains a landmark important in the social, political and cultural history of Terre Haute, Indiana and the nation.

#### THE SWOPE BLOCK

The Swope Block is an Italian-Renaissance Revival building located at the northwest corner of Ohio and Seventh Street. This brick three-story structure has an elaborate limestone facade facing South Seventh Street. The building has many fine architectural features and has suffered very little from alteration or neglect.

The Swope Block was built in 1901 for Sheldon Swope. Swope was born in 1843, and came to the city in 1867 after serving in the Civil War. He secured a position with a local jewelry firm of S. P. Freeman and later became a partner.

The building plans were drawn by Schaffer of Evansville. Since Swope wanted the local firms and laborers to benefit as much as possible, all of the contracting was awarded to Terre Haute firms. Nehf & Waldbieser was the general contractor, and the Terre Haute Stone works built the Seventh Street facade of Green River stone from Green River, Kentucky.

The original plans called for six businesses on the first floor, offices on the second and lodge rooms on the third floor. Swope also reserved two rooms on the south side of the second floor for his own living apartment.

Swope died on July 9, 1929. His will specified that "a public art gallery to be known as and called 'The Sheldon Swope Art Gallery' shall be established in Terre Haute." Ten years later the income from the estate was used to alter the Swope Block into the art gallery and purchase art works. The gallery was designed by Miller & Yeager and was opened on March 21, 1942. As specified in Sheldon Swope's will, the works of art have been displayed publicly since the opening. Admission has always been free. The Swope Art Gallery was accredited by the American Association of Museums in 1972 and has numerous outstanding features.

The ornate cast-bronze and glass doors forming the first-story entrance to the gallery were manufactured by the Ellison Bronze Co., Inc. of Jamestown, New York in 1941-42. They were designed by Miller & Yeager.

#### INDIANA THEATER

The Indiana Theater is located on the southwest corner of Ohio and Seventh Streets in downtown Terre Haute and is well adapted to its corner site. It is built of red brick and heavy terra cotta trim and is basically a rectangular structure, curved at the front corner with a long rectangular extension in the rear to the west. Both the long and the short sides facing Seventh Street and Ohio Street respectively contain shops on the ground floor.

One of the most distinctive features is the wealth of applied ornament on the exterior surfaces as well as throughout the interior. Such decoration recalls 17th-century Spanish architecture and is an Americanized version of what is often called Churrigueresque ornament. Of special note is the lavish use of symmetrically organized vegetative and geometric forms, which decorate the windows both at the center and along the exterior side walls. Among the forms which appear repeatedly are festoons and coats-of-arms. Between the three large windows on the gable corner, thin candelabra and baluster shafts are rendered in low relief and contrast markedly with the heavier and bolder forms of the voluted window heads. The pinnacles and the stone cable mouldings strung vertically along the edges of the brick pilasters that enframe the broad gabled corner are also features often found in Spanish architectural decoration.<sup>5</sup>

The interior of the theater is as lavish as the exterior, and it has remained unaltered. The rotunda outer lobby is completely clad with marble terrazzo decorative tile. Above is a chandelier. The ceiling of the main lobby has supporting caryatids. The lobby has its original furniture and a fountain. The auditorium is divided into three levels. It currently seats 1,660. The ceiling and cornice is very ornate as are the false boxes on the sides flanking the stage. Below the stage are numerous dressing rooms.

The Indiana Theater was designed by the much-celebrated theater architect, John Eberson. Eberson also designed the Hippodrome Theater at Eighth and Ohio Streets in 1914. Like so many of Eberson's movie palaces, The Indiana Theater takes the movie-goer to a fantasy world of Spanish Baroque terra cotta ornamentation.

"There were three giants in the field of American picture palace design -- Thomas Lamb, John Eberson, and the Chicago firm of Rapp and Rapp."<sup>6</sup> Eberson designed not merely theaters, but movie palaces in Houston, Chicago, New York and Terre Haute. Born in Austria in 1875, he studied in Dresden and was graduated at the University of Vienna. In 1901 he immigrated to America and settled in St. Louis where he worked as an electrical contractor. In 1904 he opened his own architectural firm and engaged in theatre construction. By 1910 he moved his firm to Chicago and in 1923 to New York City.

The theater was built in 1921 and formally opened on January 9, 1922. It was a silent movie and vaudeville palace. The first film shown was "Cappy Ricks" starring Thomas Meighan.

The John A. Schumacher Company of Indianapolis was the general contractor of the theater. The ornate plastering of the lobby was done by the Standard Mosaic Tile Co. of Chicago. The American Terra Cotta and Ceramic Co. of Chicago supplied the ornate, terra cotta tiles used on the facade. The entire theater was constructed at the cost of \$750,000. Because of the decline of downtown evening activities, the Indiana Theater became the only functioning theater in the central business district by 1980.

#### TERMINAL ARCADE

The Terminal Arcade, located on Wabash Avenue just west of 9th Street, was built by the Terre Haute Traction and Light Company in 1911. It is a one-

story brick structure with a basement; the ground floor originally serving as the traction terminal area and the basement given over to offices and a variety of commercial shops.

The Terre Haute Traction and Light Company decided in 1910 to build the terminal as a station for the Interurban lines, which began in Terre Haute in the 1890s. The company had service north to Clinton, Indiana, east to Indianapolis, south to Sullivan, Indiana, and west to Paris, Illinois.

The building was designed by Daniel H. Burnham of Chicago.<sup>7</sup> The ornate facade was sculpted by the architectural sculptors, J. W. Quayle and Fred Edler. Quayle considered the fruit basket atop the facade, one of his most notable accomplishments. The facade is made of Wallner limestone from Bedford, Indiana. The pair worked perched above the pavement on scaffolds with their hammers and chisels. They tacked their reference drawings to the scaffolding.

The interior of the building was divided into shop stalls which were occupied by various enterprises, including a saloon, music and cigar stores, a barber shop, and a real estate agency. Beginning on December 1, 1949, the Terminal Arcade served as the city bus station until a new station was constructed in the late 1960s, and the arcade was abandoned.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE HISTORIC AREA

In 1935, Congress passed the Historic Sites Act establishing a policy of preserving historic resources of national significance for public use and inspiration. This policy was expanded in 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act, which authorized the creation of the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects throughout the country that are at least fifty years old and considered to be of local, state, or national significance in history, architecture, archaeology, or culture. Listing in the National Register:

- gives the property prestige and publicity
- provides protection for the property from adverse effects of federally-assisted projects
- enables owners who rehabilitate certified historic structures to take advantage of federal tax benefits
- allows property owners to apply for federal grants-in-aid (if funds are made available) for preservation projects

Listing in the register does not mean that the federal government wants to buy the property or place restrictions on its appearance or function, or on the way a private owner (using private funds) may choose to alter it.<sup>8</sup>

To qualify for the 25% Investment Tax Credit program and to assure consistent standards of quality of rehabilitation of certified historic structures, the rehabilitation must be certified by the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards are a published guide to rehabilitation standards which guarantees the preservation of the building's historic character while being rehabilitated for a new use. With this incentive, the bias in favor of new construction has been effectively eliminated.

National Register status could be the turning point in struggle of the downtown. It could be. It is a tool that can be used to revive this dead commercial area. The downtown's asset is its aesthetic collection of historic architecture. That is something that the malls cannot offer. It is the responsibility of Terre Haute's public and business leaders to take the initiative with this new redevelopment tool. The time is now to change the attitude of apathy and contempt for the downtown.

Terre Haute again needs cooperative leaders with vision who realize that an opportunity awaits them to make money, improve the quality of life, and end the despair and hopelessness that hangs over the city like a vile poisonous cloud.

It is time for the people of Terre Haute to ask themselves and their leaders some questions.

How many more vacant lots does the downtown need?  
How many more parking lots are needed?  
How many more buildings need to be demolished?  
How many more buildings are going to be debased with  
ugly and unnecessary alterations?  
How many more inappropriate new buildings are going to  
be dumped on downtown?

Historic Preservation is a movement which really has not taken hold in Terre Haute, and the city is worse off for it. The longer public officials and business leaders demolish entire blocks either with the wrecking ball or by neglect, the poorer we all shall be, deprived of our cultural heritage, our sense of place and quality of life in general.

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<sup>1</sup>"The Social Club", The Reform Advocate [Chicago], December 7, 1909, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup>Donald L. Bush, "The Terre Haute General Strike" (Master's Thesis Indiana State Teachers' College, 1958), p. 19.

<sup>3</sup>"Terre Haute No. 3 General Strike City", The Literary Digest, August 3, 1935, p. 9.

<sup>4</sup>Bush, p. 24.

<sup>5</sup>Howard Wooden, "Art Object of the Week, Terre Haute Tribune Star, August 3, 1975.

<sup>6</sup>Elliot Stein, "An Acre of Seats in a Garden of Dreams", Film Comment March-April 1979, p. 34.

<sup>7</sup>Charles Moore, Daniel H. Burnham: Architect, Planner of Cities (New York, Da Capo Press, 1968), Appendix E.

<sup>8</sup>The National Register of Historic Places in Indiana (Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1982).